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SURVIVAL.

The Magazine of Self Reliance

GUIDE



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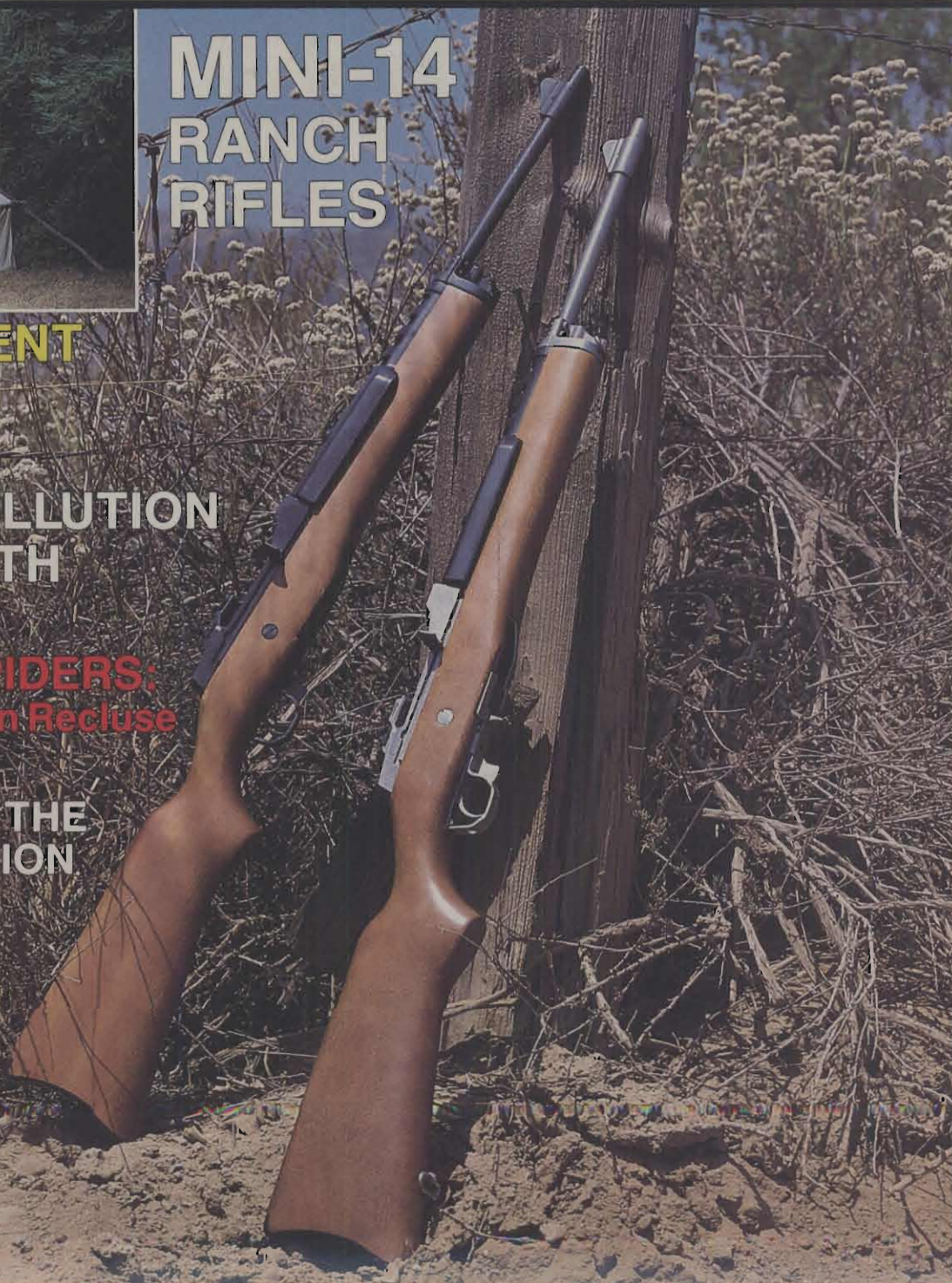
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September 1989

Dear Friends,

It is with tremendous pride and pleasure that we announce the following: The Survivalist Clearinghouse Products & Services division has been purchased by NITRO-PAK which is owned by Mr. Harry Weyandt.

When Survivalist Clearinghouse first determined it was going to focus most of its time on the survival home construction industry, we looked through the survival industry for qualified candidates to purchase SCH. In particular, we were looking for a firm which was well established in the industry, having provided excellent products and services for a number of years. We also would not be content with just any company having the word "survival" in its name, but instead a firm run by principals who were thoroughly knowledgeable on survivalist products, applications, and the perpetual need for confidentiality in the handling of clients affairs. We soon found there was but one firm which could carry on with the same standards of excellence as SCH. That firm is NITRO-PAK Survival Foods & Supplies.

That means you can call up NITRO-PAK at (213) 929-4705 instead of SCH from now on and know that your complete survival products needs will be professionally taken care of by Mr. Weyandt and his staff to the same high standards as formally handled by SCH.

Sincerely Yours,

Douglas Slater

Douglas Slater
General Manager - Survivalist Clearinghouse

P.S. By the way, if there is any way possible (sell the second car, cash in a CD early) - do not pass up NITRO-PAK's great storage food offers which follow. They are simply the best deals available anywhere in storage foods.

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SEPTEMBER 1989 VOLUME 11 NUMBER 9

GUIDE

COVER:

Ruger's Mini-14 Ranch Rifles are among the most popular U.S. semiautomatic sporting rifles. See page 56. Inset: western style wall tent. See page 16. (Photos by Scott Stoddard).

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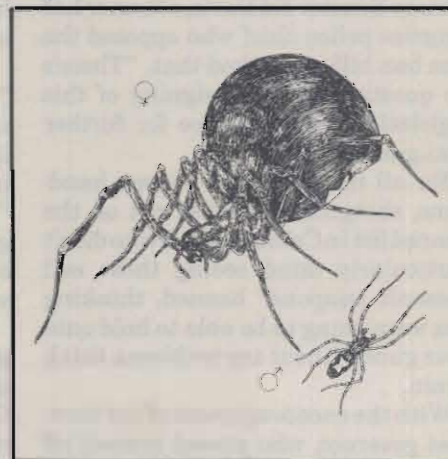
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TO THE POINT

California's gun ban bill is just the beginning for the gun haters. . .

FOR those of you who thought the "assault gun" ban law recently passed in California would be the end of anti-gun legislation here, take notice. What's happening here in California is an object lesson on the real motive of the anti-gun movement: a *total ban on all firearms!*

As the leftist, anti-gun *Los Angeles Times* noted upon the signing of the assault gun ban bill, "...restrictive gun measures are advancing in the Legislature as never before."

State Senator Ed Davis, a former Los Angeles police chief who opposed the gun ban bill, remarked that, "There's no question that the signing of this legislation cracks the ice for further anti-gun legislation."

For all those of you who own handguns, shotguns and rifles not on the banned list in California and who didn't particularly mind seeing those evil "assault weapons" banned, thinking you were going to be able to hold onto your guns without any problems, think again.

With the encouragement of our turncoat governor, who passed himself off for years as a conservative Republican and then sided with the most adamantly anti-gun leftists and idiotic would-be do-gooders in the Legislature to strip us of our firearms, the anti-gun faction is going hog wild to impose the most harsh and restrictive anti-gun laws imaginable on California gun owners.

At this writing there are bills pending in the Legislature which would: ban all private sales of guns except antiques and gun sales between family members; classify any gun under 30 inches in overall length as a concealable weapon; require a 15-day waiting period before purchase of any gun; ban firearm magazines with a capacity of more than 10 rounds (larger capacity magazines possessed prior to the ban would have to be registered and would be severely restricted); ban semiautomatic shotguns; allow random searches of vehicles for guns by police. These measures represent only a few of the gun control bills pending in the Legislature.

"Virtually everyone agrees," reported

the *Los Angeles Times*, the assault gun ban legislation "threw open the floodgates and made it easier for proponents of gun controls to win passage of their measures."

As I've mentioned before, the current wave of anti-gun hysteria gained momentum from increasing media hype about "gang violence" and drug dealers using guns in crimes, topped off by the murderous rampage of the psychopath Patrick Purdy in a Stockton, California, school yard last January in which he killed 5 children and wounded 29 others with his AK-47 rifle.

Ironically, the list of 50 to 60 specific "assault" rifles, pistols and shotguns named in the gun ban bill did not include the Norinco 56S copy of the AK-47 used by Purdy. The bill's proponents "were so sloppy that they missed the gun" used by Purdy, said Republican state Assemblyman Tom McClintock who opposed the gun ban.

Well, not to worry. Under the "compromise" worked out between the anti-gunners in the Legislature with California Gov. George Deukmejian, ostensibly to gain his support for the gun ban (he actually favored it all along anyway), the finalized bill bans other models and copies of the AK-47. Additionally, the radically anti-gun Democratic state Attorney General John Van de Kamp — a man who's running for governor next year — can go into court whenever he pleases and get many other guns banned by showing they are also "assault weapons."

How did Californians come to such a nightmarish situation as we have confronting us here today in which we are looking at the end of our Second Amendment rights?

It didn't happen overnight. The fanatical, radical people who so hate firearms and are so opposed to the people who own them, have been around for a long time and have succeeded with the aid of well organized and financed political organizations and the aid of good press from fawning media — especially the Big Media. Additionally, the courts have upheld a tradition by which the majority political party in the Legislature — in

this case the Democrats — can redraw election districts (gerrymandering) every 10 years.

The public, particularly the gun-owning public hasn't had a chance to show its true will in this matter yet. This is not a major election year. If gun owners don't organize now and get out the vote in force next year, God help us. And don't forget about Congress and the incredibly harsh and restrictive legislation now pending there to strip us of our firearms and liberty.

Wake up people! What does it take to make you realize we are facing perhaps the most grave constitutional crisis of our time?

Talk to your family, your friends, neighbors, business associates, anyone who will listen. Keep on talking and making the case for responsible, law-abiding gun rights and freedoms. Convince as many people as you can about the peril we are facing as a nation. Register to vote, get everyone you can to register and whenever and wherever you have the opportunity, VOTE against the anti-gun movement and anti-gun laws. Get active in political organizations supporting gun freedom or organize them if they don't exist in your area. Make your views on firearms known wherever and whenever you can. Don't let up.

In California, to begin with, there is a drive to put an initiative on the ballot next year to establish a state constitutional amendment granting citizens the right to keep and bear arms. California is one of only a few states which do not have such a state constitutional amendment. A petition drive is underway. For more information, contact the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms, Liberty Park, 12500 N.E. Tenth Place, Bellevue, WA 98005; (206) 454-4911. There is also a drive underway for a state initiative next year to limit the power of the anti-gun Democrats in state government. It's called the Legislative Reform Act of 1990 and it's sponsored by Republican Assemblyman Ross Johnson.

If you're a California gun owner, find out who your state senator and assemblyman are and how they are voting on the anti-gun legislation. Let them know how you feel about it. If they are anti-gun, GET ACTIVE politically and work to defeat them, if not in the next election, down the road, as soon as it can be done. Encourage and support all political office holders who are pro-gun — *Jim Benson.*

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Electronic Guerrilla Warfare

by Lawrence W. Myers



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SURVIVAL LINE

Computerized telephone medical information service, bicycle riders urged to wear helmets for safety, world oceans warming, rising. . .

L ENOX Hill Hospital in New York City has established a computerized telephone information service which offers callers advice and information on a wide range of medically related topics. Callers can select from among more than 300 pre-recorded informational tapes by simply dialing the three-digit code number of the tape they wish to hear.

The service is designed to work with both rotary and push button telephones. Topics covered by the tapes run the gamut from Lyme disease to cancer, stress effects to Alzheimers disease, etc. The service is available 24 hours a day. Instruction in the use of the system is provided by a pre-recorded message at the beginning of the call. The service can be reached by calling (212) 439-3200. You can also have a detailed descriptive brochure sent to you by calling the Lenox Hill Health Education Center at (212) 439-2980.

Two Wheel Safety — If your child rides a bike without wearing a helmet, he is eight times more likely to suffer serious brain damage in an accident than if he had worn a helmet. So says Dr. Robert S. Thompson, author of a study recently published in the *New England Journal of Medicine*. The study found that in 1985 there were 574,000 bicycle-related injuries requiring emergency room visits in the U.S. Of those injuries 1,300 proved fatal. Overwhelmingly, the most common causes of death or serious disability resulting from bicycle related accidents were severe injuries to the head and brain. The study found that bicycle riders who wore helmets had an 88 percent less risk of head injury in an accident than those who did not. Children under the age of 15 accounted for 68 percent of the severe brain injuries suffered by bicycle riders. Only 4 percent of children under 15 were found to wear helmets.

Oceans Warmer, Higher — The release of three new reports concerning

the global rise in sea levels, and the concurrent rise of surface temperatures in the world's oceans, seems to add more weight to the theory that we are experiencing a global "greenhouse effect."

The first report, from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA, shows that the surface temperature of the world's oceans has risen steadily by 1.5 degrees F. per year for the last 6½ years. Scientists at NOAA used highly sensitive satellite-borne infrared sensors to detect the ocean warming. A NOAA spokesman said that this was the most complete and accurate such survey ever conducted. He noted that the measurement of ocean temperatures gives a more precise indication of global warming than does the measurement of land temperatures which are subject to distortion by the heat radiated from cities.

The second report, by two scientists from the University of Toronto, was published in the journal *Science*. The report confirmed a rise in worldwide sea levels over the past century of approximately 1/10 of an inch per year. Noted the report's authors, "It would not be surprising. . . if. . . the greenhouse effect were first observed through an indirect response such as an increase in global sea level."

The third report, presented to a meeting of the Geological Society of America, by government geologist Susan Halsey, focused upon where and when the U.S. might feel the first impact of a greenhouse-effect induced rise in sea levels. According to Halsey, the 10 or so natural barrier islands, including Long Beach off the coast of New Jersey, might well be submerged by the turn of the century if the rise in sea levels continues at its current rate. These barrier islands run for about 125 miles along the New Jersey coastline and are the most commercially developed such islands in the entire United States. Their loss could be economically devastating both to property owners and the State of New Jersey.

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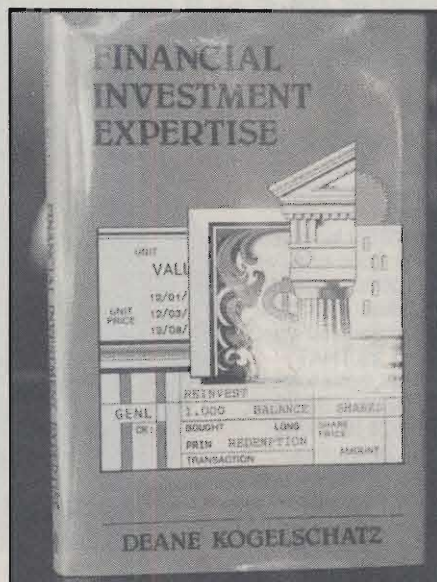
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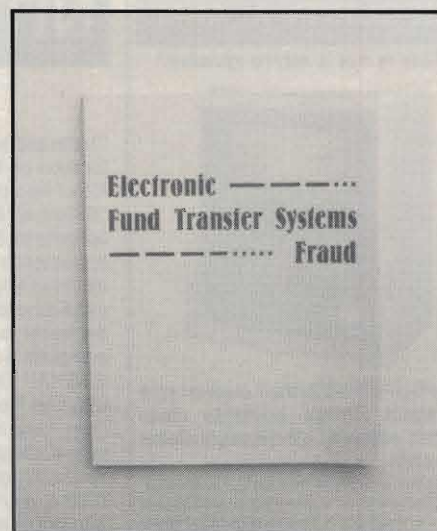
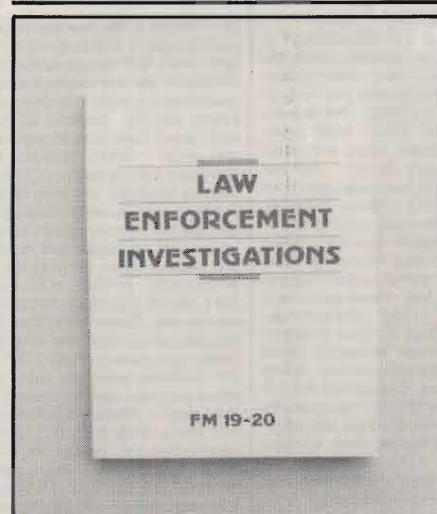
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BOOKS/VIDEOS



Financial Investment Expertise, by Deane Kogelschatz. Paladin Press, P.O. Box 1307, Dept. ASG, Boulder, CO 80306; (303) 443-7250; 168 pages, hardcover; \$17.95 plus \$3.50 shipping and handling.

For those who find it hard to comprehend the world of finance and investment, the book *Financial Investment Expertise* may provide the insights and understanding necessary to help the novice feel comfortable with money terms and the investment options that are available. Learn to read the financial page of your newspaper's business section, understand what a stock really is, learn the difference between a dividend and a capital gain distribution. A large glossary provides quick reference for important words and phrases.



Electronic Fund Transfer Systems Fraud, Paladin Press, P.O. Box 1307, Dept. ASG, Boulder, CO 80306; (303) 443-7250; 128 pages, softcover; \$15 plus \$3.50 shipping.

ATM cards and automatic teller machines have changed the way many of us do our banking. Unfortunately, along with this new technology comes a new way for the criminal to get at our money. Your entire bank account could be drained by the person in line behind you after you use an ATM machine. A thief with a stolen ATM card usually has three chances to guess the correct (PIN) personal ID number. A birthdate or home address is usually the first guess these guys will try. This detailed manual gives an in-depth look at electronic bank fraud with information on point-of-sale terminals, home banking, and automated clearing houses and wire transfer services. Lots of tables and charts are presented to show the statistics of electronic bank fraud and the solutions available.

Law Enforcement Investigations, a reprint of U.S. Army FM 19-20, a guide for military police investigators. Paladin Press, P.O. Box 1307, Dept. ASG, Boulder, CO 80306; (303) 443-7250 or (800) 642-8300, Ext. 24 to order with Visa or MasterCard; 288 pages, softcover; \$20 plus \$3.50 shipping.

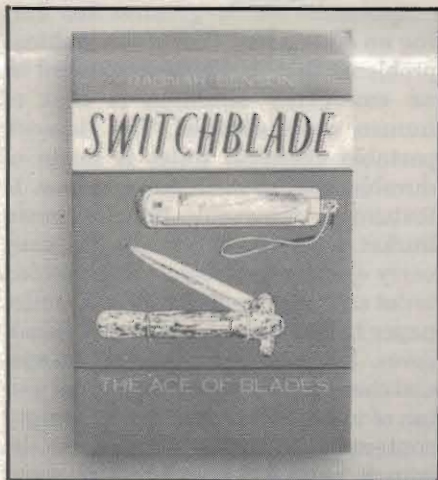
A very thorough guide that details step by step the process taken when conducting investigations: knowing legal considerations, gathering information/evidence, testimonial evidence and rendering courtroom testimony.

Chapters cover subjects such as surveillance and undercover operations, crime scene processing, preserving evidence, larceny, assault, arson, counterfeiting and drug crimes. The chapters on collecting evidence, whether fingerprinting, tire casting or firearm ballistics are all fascinating to read.



The Defensive Edge, a video featuring Ernie Franco, 8173 Monte Vista, Upland, CA 91786, \$39.95 each or \$69.95 for both tapes. Include \$2.50 each for shipping.

These two video tapes, volume one and two, teach defensive maneuvers to combat against knife attacks. Each tape begins with a catalog of the best knives available for personal protection. Then the exciting performances follow. Learn hand passing moves for fixed blade knives, knife retention (how to protect yourself against disarming attempts), close range counters, parries and deflections and training methods. Learn about folding knives, safety and knife handling. The application of defensive strategy, understanding distance and evasive tactics while stopping an aggressor — all of these aspects are easily grasped by the viewer of these high quality tapes. The videos were made on location in Hawaii and feature lush surroundings.



Switchblade, The Ace of Blades, by Ragnar Benson, Paladin Press, Dept. ASG, P.O. Box 1307, Boulder, CO 80306; (303) 443-7250; 104 pages, soft-

(Continued on page 43)

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Epidemics are the greatest fear during an emergency. One of the greatest problems that can be encountered in an emergency situation is that of human waste disposal. The Hassock portable chemical toilet is made of durable, easy-to-wash polyethylene. It features a removable interior waste bucket with sturdy handle for easy carry and disposal, removable molded toilet seat, and an inner lid with toilet paper holder that also acts as a splash cover. Just pour one capful of the special chemical deodorant into a half gallon of water. When toilet is full empty contents into sewage system or slit trench. Send \$39 plus \$4.95 shipping and handling or two for \$85 ppd to: SI Outdoor Food & Equipment, 15600 S. Figueroa Street, Gardena, CA 90248; (800) 533-7415 or in California call (213) 324-8855.



Sidekick Duty Holster

Law enforcement and security personnel who carry 9mm and .45 caliber semiauto pistols now have an alternative to the heavy, noisy and expensive leather holsters normally worn in the line of duty. Michaels of Oregon has introduced a new Duty Holster that offers a fast, smooth draw and maximum gun retention for autoloading pistols. Designed for a medium-high ride, the holster can be worn on a two-inch holster belt. The holster has a unique lower retention device that applies pressure to the end of the gun's slide near the muzzle. The adjustable device helps keep the gun in the holster even when the safety strap is not snapped. By turning the slotted-screw adjustment on the device, the officer can attain the desired amount of tension on the slide. Made of 1000 denier Cordura nylon, waterproof close cell foam padding and smooth nylon lining for a rugged, durable life. The Duty Holster is sized to fit the Colt Government Model .45, Beretta 92F, Glock 17 and 19, Ruger P85, Sig/Sauer P220 and P226 and the Taurus PT92 and PT99. Available in black, right or left hand models for \$29.95. Send \$2 for a catalog to: Michaels of Oregon, P.O. Box 13010, Portland, OR 97213.



Water Tech Water Purifier

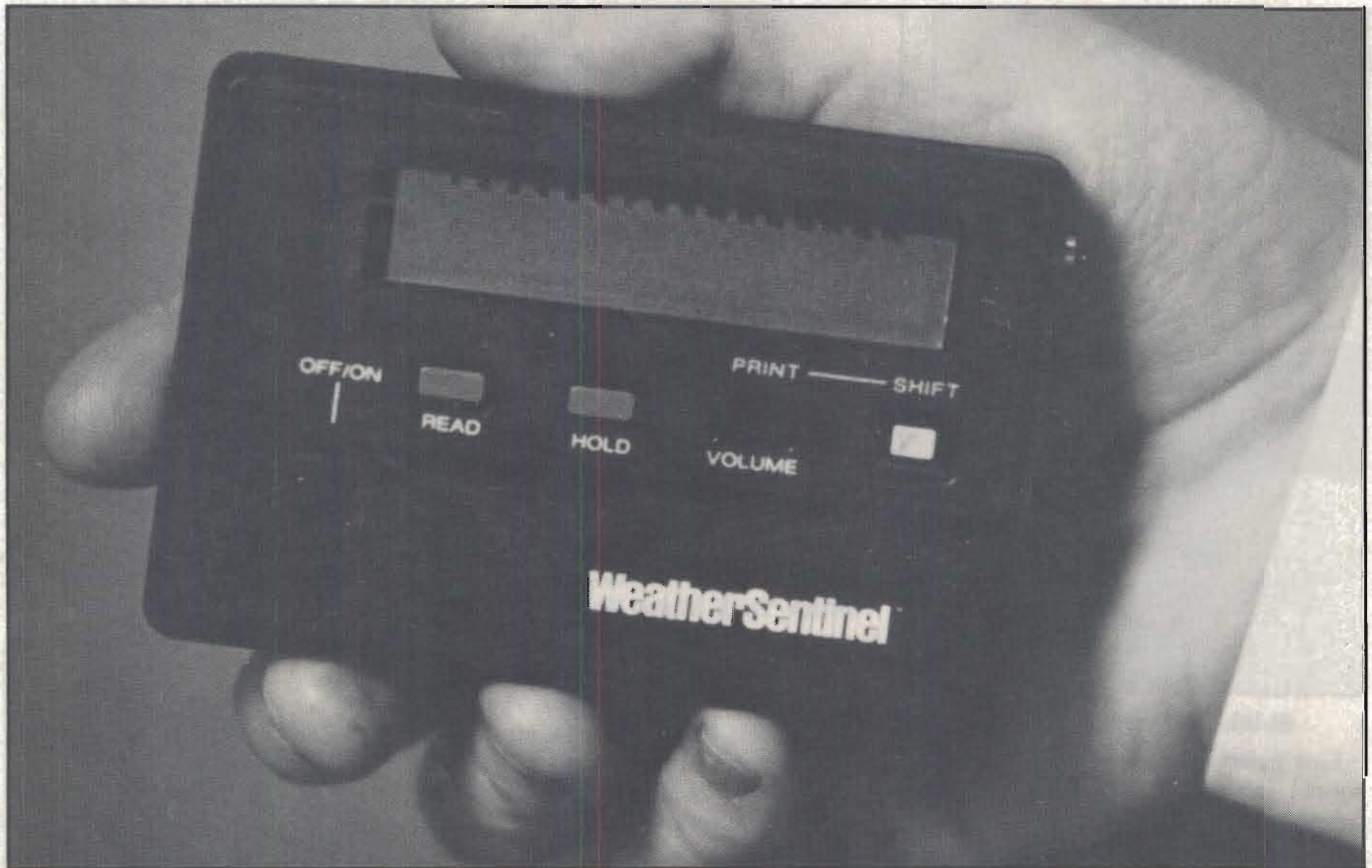
Drink with confidence from virtually any non-saline water source with the Water Tech Water Purifier. Triocide devitalizes harmful micro-organisms as they are filtered through the cup's resin bed at a rate of 45 seconds per every six ounces resulting in clean pure drinking water. NASA uses the Water Tech Triocide resin on all its space shuttle flights to purify and protect the astronauts' drinking water. Proven effective against Giardia Lambliia parasites, hepatitis virus, and bacteria such as streptococcus fecalis. Retail price is \$39.95 ppd. from Patriot Distribution Co., 2872 S. Wentworth, Milwaukee, WI 53207; (414) 769-0760.

Dog Guard

The high pitched sound waves that emanate from this solid state electronic device will stop attacking dogs in their tracks. With just a push of a button the user can protect himself, children and small pets from vicious attacks while at the same time inflicting no serious injury to the dog itself. A useful item for joggers, bicyclists, police, delivery personnel, or anyone who is just plain afraid of dogs. Available for \$39.95 plus \$4.25 shipping and handling from: Personal Electronic Protection Services, Dept. ASG, P.O. Box 1044 E. Paradise, CA 95967; (916) 877-2337. California residents add six percent sales tax.



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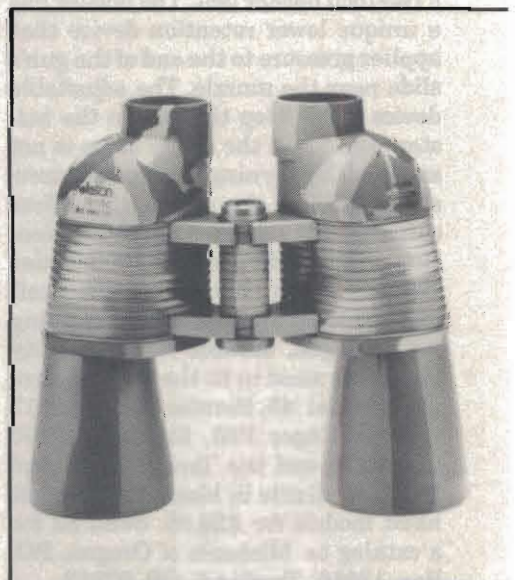


Weather Sentinel

Weather Sentinel is a communications service which delivers lightning alerts via portable pocket pagers. Envision a rectangular box around your county or area of concern. Now think of a second box to the west or south of your county. Whenever lightning moves into any one of these alert zones, you will be immediately notified via a message on the pager. A message such as "Lightning in South Zone" or "Lightning in West Zone" will be displayed on a LCD screen. Know how close and where storms are coming from. The system uses satellite technology to continuously monitor lightning strikes in your area. Forecasts are also broadcast showing high and low temperatures, evaporation rates, relative humidities and dew points, percent chance precipitation, average wind and direction, heat stress index, etc. To learn more call: (800) 950-7879; Weather Sentinel, 1200 Washington Avenue South, Dept. ASG, Minneapolis, MN 55415.

Jason Perma Focus 2000 Binoculars

These binoculars never need focusing. Using sophisticated optics along with the human eye's natural focusing ability, you'll never have to waste time fumbling to focus the image. Everything from about 40 feet (90 feet on ten power models) to infinity appears in clear, sharp focus. Available in four models, each binocular features a graphite composite body, for lightness and strength, and rubber armoring in the camo pattern for protection from jars and knocks in the field. Optics range from 7 x 21, 7 x 35, 7 x 42 and 10 x 50. Each Jason Perma Focus 2000 camouflage binocular comes with a soft nylon carry case, neck strap, dust covers, lens cleaning cloth and instruction manual. Contact Jason Empire, P.O. Box 14930, Dept. ASG, Overland Park, KS 66214; (913) 888-0220.

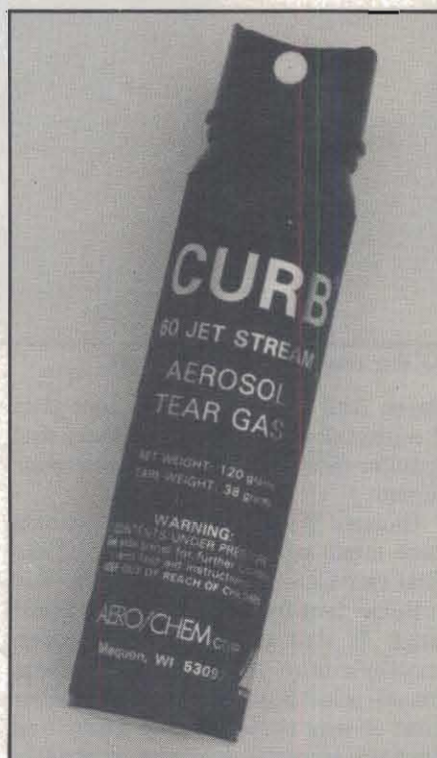


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Ultra Energy is a scientific blend of branched chain and other amino acids. The unique formulation protects muscles from negative effects during the exertion of heavy physical training and the stress of competition. It is a 100 percent balanced ratio of carbohydrates, essential fats, electrolytes, vitamins and minerals. Ultra Energy is not a sports drink but a food replacement that can be used prior to an athletic event. It prevents "blood shunting" to the GI-tract thereby eliminating nausea, diarrhea and muscle cramps. Used by runners, cyclists, swimmers, etc., Ultra Energy stores well in its foil packet and would be useful for backpackers, rock climbers, hunters and survivalists. A starter kit is available for \$20 and includes four packets and water bottles. Procyon Industries, Inc., 12200 E. Washington Blvd., Suite H, Dept. ASG, Whittier, CA 90606; (800) 54-ULTRA.



CURB Aerosol Tear Gas

The CURB 60 large police model is a hand held aerosol tear gas unit that shoots a stream of alpha-chloroacetophenone (CN) a distance of at least ten feet and upwards to 15 feet. CURB is a self-defense weapon and should be used only for this purpose. The irritant material is a non-toxic wet substance, not a contaminating gaseous material. It will not cause discomfort to users or others not directly contacted with it. The spray can contains no fluorocarbon propellants and emits a modified shotgun pattern spray rather than a pinstream, thus giving better coverage against a number of attacking assailants. Available from: Patriot Distribution Co., 2872 S. Wentworth, Dept. ASG, Milwaukee, WI 53207; (414) 769-0760. The CURB Model 60 sells for \$11.95 ppd. and contains 120 grams for approximately 60 one-second bursts. The CURB Model 20 sells for \$8.95 ppd. and contains 25 grams for 25 one-second bursts. ●

Wilderness Shelters:

Canvas Tents

These rustic white tents housed soldiers, pioneers, and hungry gold seekers as the wild frontier pushed west. . .



The "western-style" wall tent uses seven poles. Only the ridge pole is located inside the tent.

By Scott Stoddard

HAVING grown up in the plastics age, I naturally thought all tents should be made of nylon. Rip-stop nylon, geodesics, windfoil shapes, aluminum shock-corded poles — this was the cutting edge of tent design. And heck, if a tent was good enough to take to Mt. Everest, then that's the tent I wanted! So I bought one. A nice computer designed dome, with triangulated poles that resisted wind and

snow. And it was great. A tent that I could take to the granite peaks and hunker down in during a cold summer storm. . .

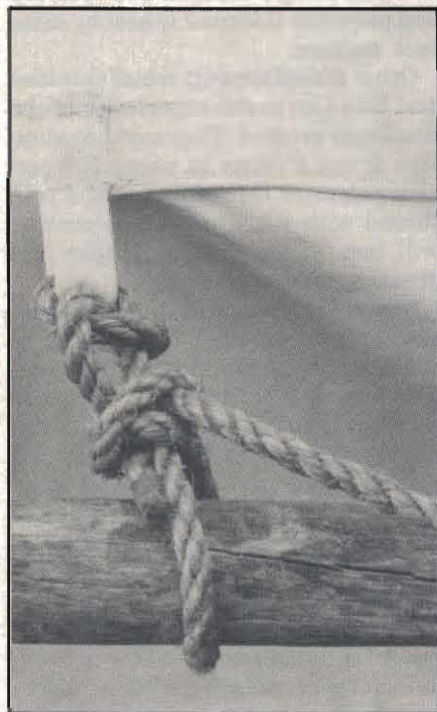
Canvas. Why would anyone want a tent made out of canvas? One of the first canvas tents I can remember was a Baker tent from my early Boy Scout days. It was probably the quartermaster's tent. Along with its dirty, khaki color appearance, I remember that it was ripped in the back, and that the zippered door was constantly

jammed. Half of the stakes were missing and it was miserable to set up. In my mind canvas tents were obsolete, cranky old things that just couldn't make the grade. A nylon pup tent was for me, followed by a homemade dome tent and finally my official expedition tent.

Then three years ago I rediscovered canvas. Inspired by the book *Tents, Architecture of the Nomads* by Torvald Faegre, I set out to build a Mongolian yurt — a fifteen foot diameter



A western wall tent before walls and floor are staked out.



Seams should be sewn with flat felled seams and stress points should be double stitched.

dome made with a frame of willow poles and split saplings and covered with wool felt (see *ASG* April 1988). Instead of wool felt for the walls and roof covering, we used a thick cotton duck canvas. Probably too thick — the yurt's canvas skin weighed over 70 pounds. Transported by pick-up truck instead of camel, the yurt proved to be an amazing shelter.

For one thing, the yurt wasn't a



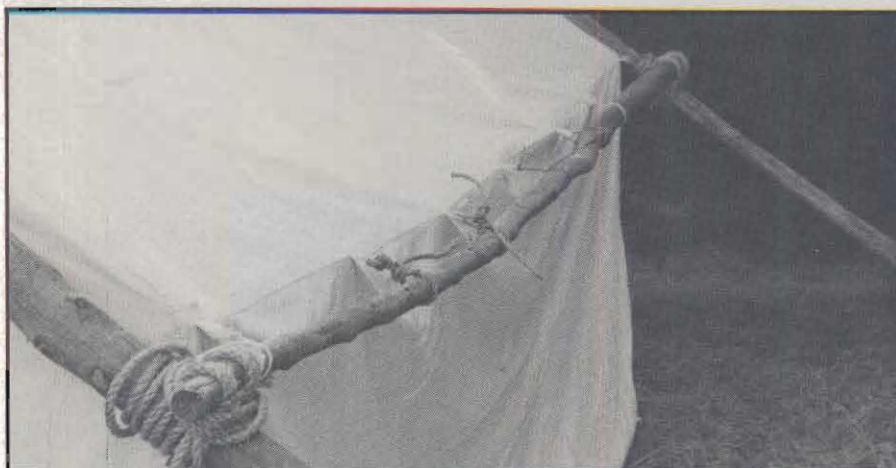
The ridge pole rests on two lashed poles and extends out a slot on the front and back wall.

sickly yellow nylon. It literally glowed inside, a pure white translucent glow. And because it wasn't made of nylon — there was no longer the chemical fume smell of artificial material. No longer did you have to go into the hunker-down mode and eat freeze dried food. We could stand up, enjoy a warm fire from the cast iron stove, and eat real food!

Canvas. It's been used for hundreds

of years in the making of tents and was in short supply during the Civil and Revolutionary Wars. In the winter of 1775-1776, Congress insisted that the "soldiers should have Tents if they stripped the Yards of those Continental Frigates and Cruisers that had sails made up." As a result, a committee of Congress reported, "We have now a parcell of fine vessells laying here useless at a time they might have

Canvas Tents



The wall of this western style wall tent is suspended by an outside pole.

been most advantageously employed."

The early settlers lived in canvas tents for months, or sometimes as long as a year or two, until their permanent houses could be finished. And when gold and silver was discovered out west, most of the boom towns that sprang up started out as canvas tent cities. In fact, a dry goods store owner, noticing how fast the miner's pants wore out, took a bolt of canvas to a local tailor and had him make a pair of pants. The man's name was Levi Strauss and his pants today, called 501s, are some of the most popular work pants in the world.

Since canvas is made from organic cotton, it swells when it gets wet. When you weave cotton tightly together you have an almost waterproof material — army duck. A tent made with

untreated cotton duck canvas will keep most of the rain out, however, due to capillary action, anything touching the inside wall of the tent will draw moisture through and soon become soaking wet. To weather a torrential down-pour, you'll need a tent with a specially treated canvas.

Sunforger Canvas — Because the boating industry requires a tough fabric that can weather the extremes of sun, water and humidity, the textile mills have come up with a treatment called Sunforger. Formerly called Vivatex, Sunforger canvas starts out with 10.38 ounce cotton army duck. Water repellency, marine finishing and boat shrunk treatment are added. The result is a canvas that sheds water, resists mold, mildew, algae and fungi

and has virtually no shrinkage factor. Sunforger flame resistant canvas meets the California safety codes that have been adopted by twenty states. In the future, should you choose to buy or make a canvas tent, ask for the best materials available; 10.38 ounce Sunforger, with flame retardant, is the industry standard.

There is a small controversy over the thread that should be used to sew canvas tents. Some theories state that to seal off seams for waterproofing the thread should contain a percentage of cotton so that it will expand when wet and close off needle holes. They say that polyester, although far superior in strength, is very abrasive and will eventually cut through the canvas fibers. Using 100 percent cotton thread has been widely ruled out because of its tendency to rot and its lower breaking strength of 18 to 25 lbs. And so a thread using a combination of cotton and polyester is touted as best by some tent makers.

Other manufacturers rebuff this idea and hold fast to the superiority of the Sunforger product. They say that abrasion is not a factor in using 100 percent polyester thread and that a poly thread with a UV protection coating will last longer and will employ the greatest tensile strength.

Seam construction is another important consideration for those planning to sew or buy a canvas tent. The strongest way to sew two pieces of canvas together is to use the flat felled seam. This requires the use of an industrial sewing machine. The flat felled seam does away with exposed raw edges of material. The raw edges are folded in and around each other allowing the thread to go through all four layers of canvas. A quality tent will always have flat felled seams. Another thing to look for are reinforced stress points where places like stake loops and webbing ties need double stitching for added protection.

Tent Designs — The best place to see a variety of canvas tents is at a mountain man rendezvous or at a reenactment gathering, whether it be a Civil War or Revolutionary War camp. Check with the local muzzle loading association in your area for information on future events.

Besides the aerodynamic tipi, the

(Continued on page 60)

Illustrations by John Kelly courtesy of Tentsmiths.



The wedge tent was used during the Revolutionary and Civil Wars. Fur trappers used it extensively during the early 1800s.

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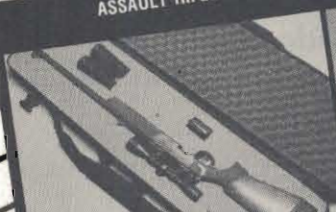
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Storage Foods:

Dry It — You'll Like It

Home food dehydration is energy efficient and provides high retention of nutrients...

By Gloria Hafemeister

ARE you all steamed up about canning chores? Is your freezer bulging at the door?

If so, why not consider drying the produce. Food dehydration is a method of preserving food that fits today's lifestyles.

One of the most important advantages of food drying over other methods of preservation is the high retention of nutrients it provides. Up to 97 percent of the vitamins and other nutrients can be saved if a good dehydrator is properly used.

Drying not only preserves foods but also offers new and different nutritious snacks such as dried fruits, fruit rolls and meat jerkies.

Drying food offers one of the most economical and energy-efficient ways of preserving a variety of foods. Here are the comparative costs per quart of food by the three methods, according to tests done by the United States Department of Agriculture and Cornell University: freezer — 21 cents, canning — 9 cents, drying — 6 cents. By the pound, the comparison is: freezing — 16.2 cents, canning — 5.5 cents, drying — 4.8 cents.

Dried foods take much less space than canned or frozen and the process takes less electricity. What's more, you can use almost any kind of old jar and can safely re-use canning lids for storing dried food.

As an example of the space saved by drying food, you will be able to get 20 pounds of tomatoes into 11 jars when canning. When dried they only weigh about a pound and just about fit into



Dried apple rings are tested for dryness.



A food dehydrator with horizontal air flow prevents flavor exchanges when drying different foods at the same time, such as the onions, strawberries and bananas here.

one quart jar. Five pounds of mushrooms (buy them in quantities when the market price is down) reduce to a single pound. Four pounds of apples will become one pound of dried food.

While dried foods and snacks are popular on the market today, they can't be compared to home-dried foods. They either have short shelf lives or have been chemically treated. Commercially prepared banana chips, for instance, usually have been sugared and fried in oil. Home dried chips may be more leathery, but they taste like real bananas. Sugar is not needed on home-dried fruits and the flavor intensifies with the process.

The uses of a good food dehydrator are endless. You can dry flowers, make sweet smelling sachets, prepare herbs and make craft items.

With a quality dryer, one with horizontal air flow, you can raise bread, make yogurt, liquify honey, sprout seeds, make noodles, dry garden seeds to save, make baby foods, make cheese, even dry a rained on newspaper.

Almost anything that has water in it can be dried. Fruits, vegetables, herbs, cheeses, yogurt, lean meats. Also, dry leftovers and don't forget flower petals for potpourri and crafts.

When selecting foods for dehydration, choose only foods that are in prime condition and perfectly fresh, just as you would for any other method of preservation.

You cannot dry oils and fats. Foods high in fat become rancid. Do not dry milk. The home drying method is not suited to this.

Although drying foods prevents microbial growth, certain chemical reactions caused by enzymes can still occur unless the product is pretreated before drying.

With many of your green and yellow garden vegetables, results are best if you heat them in a steamer, above water, until they are very hot — at boiling temperature themselves. Don't cool them in cold water. Put them right on the dehydrator rack to drain and dry. This way you won't lose most of the vitamins; in fact, tests have proven that more vitamins are lost in storage if the vegetables are not first "enzyme-treated" in this way. You won't need to do it with herbs or fruits, or with some of the vegetables like tomatoes, peppers, onions and celery, so follow a dehydrating guide.

Ascorbic acid (vitamin C) can be used in its pure form or in mixtures of ascorbic acid with citric acid or sugar. Sulfuring can be dangerous and is no longer recommended as a pretreatment chemical due to the increased number of people reporting sensitivities to sulfating agents.

Preheat the dryer while you prepare the food. As a tray is filled put it immediately into the dryer.

Wash produce but do not soak. Cut fruits uniformly so they will dry evenly and relatively fast. Each type needs somewhat different preparation.

Test for dryness: Remove a small amount of food and cool a bit. Foods that are warm always feel softer.

Fruits should be dry and leathery, some may be more crisp than others.

They are no longer sticky and must be dry all the way through.

Most vegetables should be dry and brittle. Corn should be crackling-hard. It is always better to dry a little longer than too little. You can't really over-dry food.

Always dry herbs until they are crisp; also leave herbs more whole, don't crush leaves until you are ready to season with them. This retains flavor.

Most dehydrating books do not allow enough time in their directions. Low humidity aids in the drying process, especially if the food naturally contains a lot of water. To dry food, the water must move from the food to the surrounding air.

Put dried foods in clean, air-tight containers. They must be moisture-proof and insect-proof. Glass is the best storage container. Glass jars that foods come in are ideal — peanut butter jars, mayonnaise jars and pickle jars. They should have a metal cover, however, not plastic since the porous plastic will shorten the shelf life. Canning lids can be reused again and again. Small jars are excellent for herbs. Quart size work well for vegetables. A gallon size jar is ideal for fruit snacks such as apple rings.

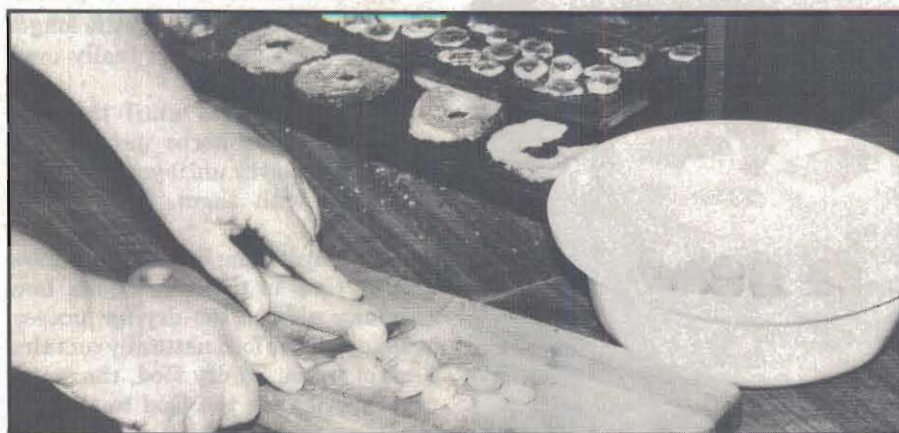
Store food in a dry, dark, cool place. If you are cramped for room store the containers under beds, in closets or in the kitchen cupboards. Store them above ground level.

Rehydrating — Rehydration is the process of restoring the moisture or liquid back to the dried foods. Don't use more water than the food will soak up. This is done by using a good guide and trial and error. A basic rule of thumb is two parts water to one part vegetables. Over-soaking spoils flavor and makes mush-foods. It is much better to use less than too much. It is quite simple once you have done it. It also depends what you are making with the dried product.

Many vegetables can be added to soups and stews and casseroles without rehydration. By simmering in the soup and stew they become properly refreshed and of excellent flavor. Herbs are added as is. Fruits and fruit rolls are many times eaten as snacks. Dried leftover meat casseroles are good as is. Vegetables can be powdered and reconstituted almost instantly.

Allow 30 minutes or an hour for vegetables to rehydrate in soup, depending on size. Using a microwave hastens rehydrating. Putting apples

Dry It — You'll Like It



Carrots and other vegetables should be sliced and steamed above hot water until they are very hot throughout. Do not cool in cold water, but put directly on the dryer rack to drain a bit, then dry immediately.



Apples should be sliced 1/4- to 1/2-inch thick. Fresh, fully ripe fruit should be used for best results.



Mushrooms do not need steam treating but can be dried as is unless you anticipate storing them a long period of time. Slice larger ones and dry small ones whole. They should be crisp when fully dried.

(dried) in water and covering them, heating to boil and let stand will bring them back in 30 minutes. Stir several times to bring moisture on all slices. Use the least water possible.

If foods are completely dried and stored properly, the food must be safe. Bacteria can't grow without moisture. If you see mold, discard it. This means it hasn't been adequately dried or stored.

Cleanliness is important!

Opening jars to take out the amount of food needed is safe as long as the jar is closed immediately before moisture can get in. Once a jar is opened, try to use the contents within two months. Using sensible sized jars makes this possible.

Oven drying, air or solar drying, microwave drying and dehydrofreezing are all methods of food preservation used with limitations but the safest, most practical method that offers the widest range of uses is the food dehydrator, a small electrical appliance for drying foods indoors.

Most food dehydrators have an electric element for heat and a fan and

vents for air circulation. Efficient dehydrators are designed to dry foods rapidly and uniformly. They vary in cost from \$50 to \$300, depending on the size and features. In general, 12 square feet will dry a half-bushel of produce.

There are two basic types of designs. One has horizontal air flow and the other vertical air flow. The horizontal air flow offers the most benefits. It reduces flavor mixture so, as an example, onions and fruits can be dried at the same time. All trays receive equal heat penetration and juices or liquids do not drip down into the heating element. The heating element and fan are on the side.

Vertical air flow has the heating element and fan located at the base. If different foods are dried, flavors can mix and liquids can drip onto the base.

A dryer should be kept in a kitchen or close for year-round use. See a nice looking appliance and check how much room you have, then buy accordingly. A dryer should also have some weight to it and offer enough trays so you can make full use of it. Some dryers have

light plastic cabinets, others are made of sturdy wood. It should be easy to clean with parts that remove easily according to manufacturer directions.

There is a big difference on the operating cost of food dryers. A good insulated dehydrator will cost much less to operate than one that is not. Fans must be set at the right speed as too much air being heated is costly. With proper air flow you need not wait for one food to dry before adding another. You can make most efficient use of the dryer if different foods can be dried at the same time without flavor exchange. A unit must be approved by Underwriters Laboratories to be safe. A good dehydrator will have a solid state adjustment thermostat, usually between 90 and 145 degrees. It should be made of non-flammable material, be properly grounded and shock-proof. It should also have a 100 percent safety shut-off control.

Use flexon sheets or spray trays with non-stick coating spray to avoid sticking.

Place foods in a single layer and avoid overlapping.

Cut foods in uniform sizes and thickness.

Suggested drying temperatures: herbs 95 degrees; vegetables 125 degrees; fruits and fruit leathers, 135 degrees; jerkies 145 degrees.

Get to know other people who dry foods. You can exchange recipe ideas. People in some parts of the country even form food dryers' clubs. If there isn't one in your area, think about forming one. Get together over a cup of coffee and share a special food you have prepared in your dryer. Exchange herbs with each other since it isn't always practical to grow each type of herb.

When growing food for drying, plant different varieties that mature at different times. This will give your dryer better time to handle the produce. Different varieties have different flavors, textures and moistures. See which you like best.

Harvest at different stages of maturity. Early corn, for instance, will be great for a vegetable. If it is too mature, don't throw it away. Dry it and put it through a blender for fresh corn meal.

Plant herbs in separate wood boxes so they won't spread. Label them to keep track of what you have. ●



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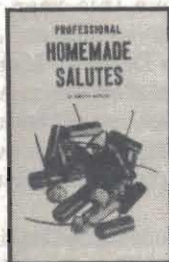
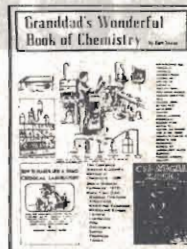
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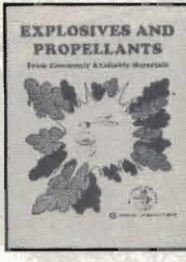
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New Detonics:

Series II Servicemaster .45

Upgraded edition of the famous Detonics pistol. . .

by Jim Benson



The Series II Servicemaster features the Detonics coned bushingless barrel system and a slide with serrations front and rear at the same angle as the grip.



Field stripped.

IN the March issue this year we reviewed the Servicemaster .45 ACP pistol from New Detonics Manufacturing Corporation of Phoenix, Arizona. Our test gun was one of the last made from the best castings left over from the bankrupt Detonics of Bellevue, Washington.

New Detonics has redesigned its line of these .45 pistols, calling them the Series II guns. They have the best features of the original Detonics pistols with some important improvements.

The main Series II line includes New Detonics' Servicemaster general purpose gun, the compact Combat Master designed specifically for concealed carry and combat encounters, and the Scoremaster target and competition .45.

These guns have all-stainless steel construction of main components with the Detonics patented coned bushingless barrel system and counterwound spring recoil system. The barrel system allows tight barrel-slide lockup, less moving parts, greater reliability, firing stability and accuracy. The counterwound triple spring (formerly double spring) recoil system reduces recoil, permitting use of a shorter barrel and slide for compactness and balance and a stronger and faster firing system. The springs are held in place with a screw that attaches to the recoil spring guide so they do not come apart and fly off during disassembly and reassembly. These pistols have faster cycling times than the average.

Other features include a Bo-Mar adjustable rear sight that is integral with the slide (it's cast as part of the slide), beavertail grip safety tang, light-

(Continued on page 68)

The Series II Servicemaster is a fast cycling, very accurate .45. This silhouette target shows the results of rapid aimed fire, below, and slow aimed fire, above, from 7 yards.



The Servicemaster is more compact than a standard Government Model .45 ACP pistol.



The slide finish with black chrome sulfide is optional.

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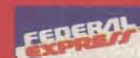
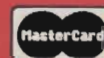
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Environmental Illness:

Bitter Living Through Chemistry

Physical symptoms of environmentally induced illness can mimic most other illnesses and defy laboratory analysis. . .

By D. K. Peterson and I. G. Smith



This park in upstate New York covers a waste disposal site and many citizens are expressing concern over what lies beneath it.



Oil and gas wells, some of them "open," are a source of controversy in many rural communities.



This power plant lies in the heart of an upstate New York community of approximately 40,000. Controlled emissions attempt to reduce contamination to nearby residential and business areas.

HOW well are people adapting to chemicals permeating our environment? Growing evidence proves human health is seriously compromised. Toxic dangers lurk everywhere, making many people chronically, often seriously, ill.

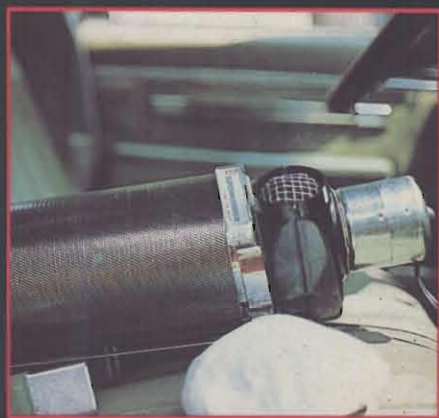
National Geographic, April, 1987, re-

ports that 65,000 new chemicals enter our environment annually, and little is known about their immediate or long range effects. Synthetics designed to simplify life, increase pleasure, or enhance appearance often become health

hazards. Pesticides contaminate air and food supplies, food preservatives are a risk, and cosmetics and polyester clothing can be troublemakers.

There is growing awareness that worker productivity is affected by "tight building syndrome." With formaldehyde in paneling and partitions; toluene, benzene and other toxins in synthetic, glued down carpets; and modern office equipment emitting fumes from inks, copy fluids, cleaning solutions, etc., the workplace poses hazards. Add perfumes, hairsprays, synthetics at home with a myriad of "new, improved" cleaning, deodorizing and fumigation supplies, and it becomes obvious that indoor pollution is a serious threat.

As early as 1874 John Muir, first president of the Sierra Club, warned



Necessary equipment for many with E.I. — if they want to leave the house: auto air cleaner, carbon filter mask and, out of sight here, oxygen tank.



Survival kit for the environmentally ill: drops taken sublingually, mask, air conditioner, oxygen, plants to help absorb pollution, vitamin C to boost the immune system, and self-help books on the subject.

that "all are more or less sick" as a result of urban pollution. In 1962 Rachel Carson warned of pesticide dangers. Her controversial *Silent Spring*, was either met with praise for honest warnings or condemnation for "scare tactics." Although the earth is not yet a barren waste, widespread evidence of the rape of our environment confronts us. Some species have become extinct while many humans find that life is a "silent spring" of illness and isolation from the mainstream of life — the tragic legacy of *bitter* living through chemistry.

Steve has Environmental Illness (E.I.), also known as Total Allergy Syndrome and similar labels. He can't go home and stays with people that were strangers before his hospitalization. A bare, environmentally safe house temporarily replaces the luxurious rural dwelling, surrounded by gas wells and filled with synthetics, once shared with his family. Hundreds of miles from

home, he's unable to return to his law profession.

Steve had a history of allergies to pollen and similar substances, but this wasn't very bothersome. When a barn was built for the family's horses, he sprayed with a wood preservative and quickly developed frightening episodes of life-threatening throat-swelling, asthma, numbness with body pain, and other bizarre symptoms physicians failed to diagnose. Asthma drugs and steroids, used to alleviate symptoms, caused additional problems.

Friends suggested a specialist in environmental medicine and Steve was isolated in a chemically free hospital unit for thorough testing. He is hypersensitive to virtually all chemicals, thanks to pentachlorophenol (known as "penta" or "PCP") in the wood preservative which severely weakened his immune system. Steve improves *without* drugs near the ocean where the

Building products and other synthetics laden with formaldehyde often contaminate the mobile home.

air is relatively clean, but he can't rejoin the family until a safe house is readied for him. He'll never again live normally.

Danny, at 35, is also totally disabled by E.I. His rewarding career counseling alcoholics at a treatment facility is over. Office equipment, chemical disinfectants, scents worn by co-workers, and other substances make him very ill. He counts himself among the fortunate, however — he knows why he's sick.

Lou, 48, can no longer work either. He reacts to everything from traffic fumes to typewriter ribbons. He lost his business and home, the result of 18 wasted years of expensive, improper medical treatment.

Both men became ill over an extended period, from cumulative exposures to common substances mentioned above that many consider safe.

It's impossible to predict potential causes or degrees of chemical illness, but we cannot take ubiquitous chemicals lightly. Many substances are known carcinogens, but few people consider "everyday" chemicals a threat. Interestingly, statistics indicate that E.I. victims usually aren't cancer prone, *but this is not an absolute*. Nevertheless, such patients require avoidance of harmful chemicals, which makes the illness more difficult to treat than malignancies. Although safe serums and antigens relieve symptoms, the immune system cannot recover unless offending chemicals are eliminated. Thus, E. I. means total disability for


(Continued on page 64)

Emergency Situations:


Nuclear Accidents

Preparation and procedures for first responders to scenes of accidents involving radioactive materials...


By Todd M. Stanford




Fixed nuclear facilities, while at first appearing intimidating, are the safest places for radiological accidents to occur.



Transportation accidents involving casks such as these which contain radioactive waste are not uncommon.



Special facilities in hospitals for dealing with contaminated victims may not always be available.



Many little storage buildings such as this go unnoticed throughout communities all over the country. This one stores radioisotopes.

YOU stop at the scene of a multi-vehicle accident. There are several casualties with injuries ranging from minor lacerations to profuse bleeding and obvious fractures.

A bystander states that the driver of the truck said something about nuclear waste shortly before he lost consciousness. The truck is placarded with a magenta propeller on a yellow field, with the word "radioactive" printed on the bottom. Some of the victims are moaning and crying for help. Being knowledgeable in first aid, you want to help. What do you do?

Do you rush in blindly and start treating patients? Do you get another bystander to help you drag the casualties to a safe point and then go to work on them? How far from the truck is a safe point?

Radioactive materials basically emit one, or a combination of any, or all, of four types of radiation: alpha particles; beta particles; gamma rays; neutrons.

While the effects of exposure to large doses of radiation are well known, the effects of low level exposure remain a mystery. How much is too much? No one knows for sure. Most experts agree that any exposure eventually takes its toll. In other words any exposure is too much exposure. We have three ways of reducing our exposure:

TIME — Plan exactly what you will do and practice it prior to entering the radiation area. Keep your "stay time" in the area to the minimum required to accomplish your task.

DISTANCE — Stay as far away from the source of radiation as possible. The Inverse Square Law applies to this type of radiation just as it applies to visible light; if you double the distance from the source of radiation, the intensity of radiation at that point will only be $\frac{1}{4}$ of what it was prior to moving. For example, if a level of 8 roentgens is measured 10 feet from a source and you move the detection instrument to 20 feet from the source, the new radiation level will be 2 roentgens.

SHIELDING — Utilize all available shielding. Generally, the greater the density of a material, the better radiation shield it will make. Neutron radiation, however, requires a bit more than lead. Before a neutron can be "captured" by lead, it must be "slowed down" (moderated). This has nothing to do with velocity; it refers to energy. The faster a sub-atomic particle, the more energy it has. An effective shield consists of 9 inches of graphite (0 penetration), or 1 foot of water (.6 percent penetration).

Exposure to ionizing radiation does not make you contaminated. Exposure to alpha or beta particles or gamma rays does not make you radioactive. Sufficient exposure of certain elements (some of which are found in the human body) to neutron radiation will in fact cause them to undergo transmutation, to actually become a completely different element, which can be radioactive.

Contamination is of two types — internal and external.

Internal contamination results from inhaling or ingesting a radioactive material. Depending on its route into the body, various methods can be used to eliminate it. Internal decontamination is not practical in the field. External contamination is the adhesion of a radioactive material to the surface of an object; whether it be tritium oxide ("Heavy water") on a wrench, rubidium gas clinging to a polyester shirt, or plutonium dust on a person's body. External decontamination will be covered elsewhere in this article. External decontamination should always be carried out in the field, at a specified area, at the incident site. The ONLY exception to this is the contaminated patient with immediately life threatening injuries. In this case, there are specific "packaging" techniques to be utilized for the protection of health care personnel.

Physiological Effects — Electrolyte balance in the human body is critical. Electrolytes are essentially solutions of ions. Radiation dissipates its energy by imparting an electrical charge to the atoms and molecules it passes through. Chemical bonds are broken in compounds necessary to sustain life. The more the chemistry at the cellular level is disrupted, the greater the damage to the body.

The symptoms and damage vary with the amount of exposure (dose/time), the amount of body exposed, and the individual. As you will note from the tables, an individual can accommodate a tremendously larger dose to a localized area than to the whole body.

Most fire/rescue services have apparatus equipped with radiation measuring instruments obtained through the Office of Emergency Preparedness (formerly Civil Defense). The standard set usually consists of a CDV-700, low range (0-50 mR/hr), survey meter; a CDV-715, high range (0-500 R/hr), survey meter; several low range (0-1 R) and several high range (0-50 R) pocket dosimeters; and a dosimeter charger.

The CDV-700 is capable of measur-

ing beta and gamma radiation, the others only gamma. There is insufficient space in this article to go into the specifics of how these work or how to operate and read them. There is no substitute for hands-on experience with these instruments and their use in the field should not be attempted by untrained personnel. A word of warning about pocket dosimeters — at best they are only 50 percent accurate. In addition, while simple and fairly rugged in construction, they must be handled with care.

Bumping or dropping a dosimeter on a solid surface can result in a false reading, either high or low on the scale. You must also remember to adjust the reading to zero, using the dosimeter charger, immediately prior to use. One of each range dosimeter should be worn on the chest of each person entering the radiation area. While, in this writer's opinion, pocket dosimeters are inadequate for accurate measurement of dose, they are a good, on site indicator of personal exposure. In addition to the pocket dosimeters, a TLD, Thermo Luminescent Detector, should be worn if available.

This is a small device usually containing lithium fluoride crystals. These crystals absorb energy from radiation passing through them. At a later time the TLD is placed into an instrument which heats the crystals. The crystals then emit light whose intensity is proportional to the amount of radiation to which they have been exposed. The intensity of the evolved light is measured and from that dose is determined, accurate to within a 10 percent span.

The disadvantages of TLDs are: they must be purchased and they must be sent away to be read. The advantages, in addition to accuracy, are their durability (they are virtually indestructible), they do not need to be "zeroed" prior to use and since they are not read on site there is little chance of a false reading. The least expensive, most practical TLD package I've found in researching this article is offered by R.S. Landauer, Jr. & Co., Glenwood Science Park, Glenwood, Illinois. They call this their ESCORT system. It consists of a TLD in the form of a laminated, $2\frac{3}{8}$ -by $3\frac{3}{8}$ -inch card. This can be carried in the pocket or wallet at all times, ready for use. After an incident involving radioisotopes, or once a year, the TLD is returned to Landauer for reading.

There are no "low cost" detection or measuring instruments for neutron

Nuclear Accidents

radiation. The Eberline Corporation of Santa Fe, New Mexico, sells a portable neutron detector, the "RASCAL" model PRS-2P/NRD Rem counter, for about \$3,000. For the safety and peace of mind provided to someone entering a neutron field this is a small price indeed. To purchase only to cache for future use is impractical for most individuals.

Apparel — There is a wide range of anti-contamination protective apparel that can be worn at an incident. None of these will protect the wearer from gamma or neutron radiation or beta particles. All will protect against alpha radiation, externally. The single most important, indispensable item of protection is the Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA). It should be worn whether dust or smoke is visible or not. Alpha particles are relatively benign — unless they find their way into the body. The SCBA provides necessary protection against invasion of the body by radioisotopes through the respiratory system.

Anti-contamination suits are as varied as the applications requiring them. These range from cotton coveralls to coveralls made of Dupont Tyvek, to disposable plastic rainsuits. The environment where the protection is to be used should determine the type of protection. Cotton coveralls are liquid permeable but very durable. They cost about \$25 a pair. The Tyvek coveralls are water repellent but tear more easily than cotton. Their price is around \$5 a set.

No matter what your choice of apparel, no skin or hair should be left exposed. Cuffs and neck should be secured with duct tape. Two pair of rubber examining or surgeon's gloves should be worn under a pair of heavy work gloves. The top pair of rubber gloves should be taped closed. A strip of duct tape should cover the zipper and other openings. Two pair of paper shoe covers, such as worn in the operating room, should be worn over the shoes. These should be topped by plastic or rubber boots. Do not tuck your coverall cuffs into the boots. They should remain on the outside of the boots with duct tape sealing the cuffs to the boots.

A cloth hair cover, such as worn in operation rooms, should be worn under the SCBA's facepiece straps. The head

should then be covered with a helmet or cloth hood. All openings should be sealed with duct tape. The dosimeters (one high and one low range) and the TLD should be placed side by side into a zip lock plastic bag and taped to the outside of the coveralls at chest level. Extra strips of duct tape should be applied to the outside of the coveralls if you expect to be in a radiation area for very long. This facilitates re-attaching your dosimetry bag after you have removed it to read your dosimeter. A note here — DO NOT open the bag in the radiation area. Read your dosimeter through the bag. It takes some practice but it can be done. Monitoring instruments, flashlights, and anything else you need in the area should be sealed in clear plastic bags to protect against contamination.

When leaving the contaminated area, at the first step off pad, remove all outer apparel, in the following order, except for one pair of rubber gloves and one pair of shoe covers: helmet or hood; SCBA; all duct tape; work gloves; cloth hair cover; dosimetry bag; coveralls (peel off, inside out); boots.

Lift first foot, remove one shoe cover and place foot onto step off pad, repeat for second foot. Remove first pair of rubber gloves. Picking up dosimeter bag, move to second step off pad. Carefully open dosimetry bag and inverting it, allow dosimeters and TLD to slide out onto step off pad or into an assistant's hands. Then follow above procedure for removing final set of shoe covers and rubber gloves. Remember to be careful not to jar the dosimeters and not to contaminate the step off pads. Monitoring instruments and tools should be handled in a manner similar to your dosimeters.

At the second step off pad, each person should be checked thoroughly for contamination. This should be done by slowly moving the probe of a low level monitor over all parts of the body. Needless to say, a person who has not been in the contaminated area should be responsible for monitoring the others. If contamination is detected, the body part should immediately be covered with a glove, clean coveralls, etc., and the contaminated worker moved to the decontamination area.

Decontamination — As already mentioned, internal contamination cannot be removed in the field. External de-

contamination of rescuers should be carried out in the field. All water used, as well as towels, should be placed in a suitably labeled container for later disposal. Contaminated clothing should be removed and stored for disposal. Washing the contaminated body part with mild detergent and tepid water, followed with a tepid water rinse will quite often suffice. Do not use hot or cold water — only tepid. Temperature extremes of the water will either seal the contaminants in the skin or actually allow the contaminants to penetrate even deeper.

Contaminated hair should be shampooed and rinsed in tepid water. These washings and rinsings can be repeated several times. If repeated washings do not decrease the level of contamination sufficiently, hair can be removed with scissors and the skin shaved with an electric razor, and the washing repeated. Decontamination beyond this level will have to be carried out by specialists in the field or an appropriately advised physician. Should a higher level of decontamination be required the affected body part should be covered until such decontamination can be performed.

As a general rule the victim of whole body exposure to ionizing radiation will be either asymptomatic or dead. The victim of partial body exposure may, if the dose is high enough, exhibit signs of a thermal burn. This should be treated as you would treat a thermal burn with one exception. If the patient's condition will allow, and if it appears he is contaminated, field decontamination procedures should be carried out prior to his removal from the scene of the incident.

While there are several opinions on this, it is the author's opinion that if there are no life-threatening injuries, field decontamination should be practiced on patients requiring decontamination. The reason for this is two-fold: there is no justification for spreading contamination to speed treatment of a relatively minor injury and, in the case of a patient contaminated with beta, gamma, or neutron emitters, allowing the contaminants to remain on the skin will increase the extent of tissue damage. In the case of the patient with serious injuries, medical treatment should not be withheld no matter how greatly he is contaminated.

Appropriate precautions by person-

nel coming in contact with the patient should be observed. Gloves, personal dosimetry, gowns, shoe and hair covers should be worn, as well as SCBA. A radiation monitor should be added to the medical team.

For a grossly contaminated patient, the following procedure, or a variant of it, should be followed. After removal of the patient's clothing, the patient is placed in the center of a large blanket, with a larger blanket placed on the ground under the first blanket. The blanket in contact with the ground will remain there after the patient is removed. The bottom of the blanket is folded up over the patient's feet, the top down over the patient's forehead. The bottom left corner is folded up across the patient's legs and the top left corner is folded down across the patient's chest. This procedure is repeated for the bottom and top right corners. The left side of the blanket is then folded over the patient and tucked under his right side. The right side is then folded over the patient and tucked under his left side. The patient can then be lifted over the step off pad and onto the stretcher.

In dealing with trauma patients, a cervical spine (neck) immobilization collar should be applied prior to stripping the patient and a long backboard inserted between the two blankets. All patients, regardless of the extent of there injuries, should be appropriately packaged and transported to a medical facility if contamination remains after field decontamination efforts. Likewise, if there is a chance that they have been exposed to airborne contaminants and may be internally contaminated, patients should be transported, for further testing and treatment, to an appropriate medical facility.

Preparation — Preparation for a nuclear accident is indispensable. Government agencies will provide volumes of information at little or no cost that will help you develop a plan of action for various contingencies. Supplies and equipment should be cached and periodically checked and practiced with by personnel who would use them in an actual accident situation. Identify businesses or other organizations in your area that use or store radioisotopes so you will know what substances may be involved in a nuclear accident.

While radiation, to most people, represents a very unknown entity and invokes fear, we all have to learn to live with it. The role of the emergency medical provider at an accident scene

involving radioactive materials requires more precautions and equipment but is otherwise not much different than procedures taken at any other incident. ●

EFFECT OF PARTIAL BODY EXPOSURE

DOSE	EFFECT
50 Rad	Asymptomatic; slight risk of neoplastic alterations.
500 Rad	Usually asymptomatic; increased risk of altered function of the exposed body part.
2,500 Rad	Atrophy; telangiectasis; altered pigmentation
5,000 Rad	Chronic ulcer; increased risk of carcinogenesis
50,000 Rad	Permanent destruction of exposed tissue.

EFFECT OF WHOLE BODY EXPOSURE

DOSE	EFFECT
200 Rad	Possible nausea with emesis; diarrhea first day, anxiety; tachycardia (sub clinical syndrome) Fatal to 5% exposed *
200-600 Rad	Nausea with emesis; diarrhea first several hours weakness; fatigue (hematopoietic syndrome) Fatal to approx. 50% within six weeks *
600-1000 Rad	Severe nausea with emesis; diarrhea first several hours (intestinal syndrome) Fatal to 100% within two weeks *
1000 Rad	"Burning sensation" within minutes; nausea with emesis within 10 minutes; confusion, prostration within 1 hour; watery diarrhea within 1 to 2 hours (cerebral syndrome) Fatal to 100% within a short time *

* Without prompt medical attention.

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Nuclear Regulatory Commission
1717 H Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20555
phone (301) 492-7715
Emergency number: 1-800-424-8802

Department of Transportation
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20590
phone (202) 472-2698
Emergency number: 1-202-426-1830

Department of Energy
Post Office Box E
Oak Ridge, TN 37830
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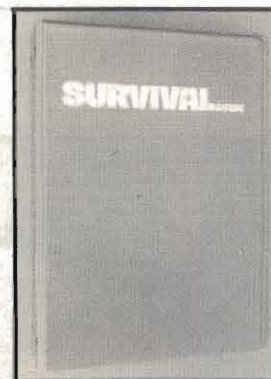
Department of Defense
Nearest military installation
Emergency number: (202) 697-6340

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401 M Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20460
phone (202) 655-4000
Emergency number: (703) 557-7390

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Staff Report

WHEN clouds obscure your solar panel, or your gasoline-powered generator runs dry, there's always human power to keep your deep cycle batteries charged up for emergency use. Originally made to operate the RT77 Backpack transceiver, the GN-58 generator can provide 6.3 to 400 volts DC.

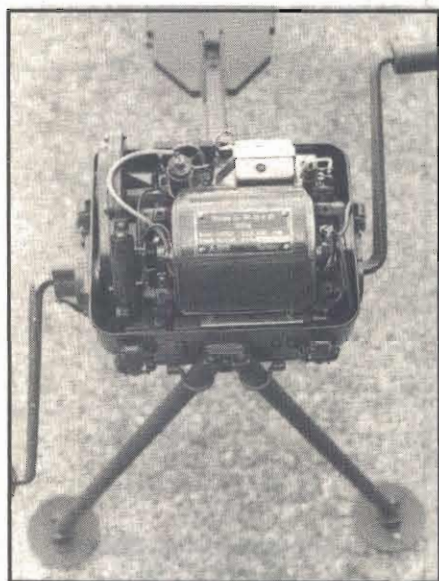
The unit breaks down to form a small package that fits into a transport bag which is included. The dynamo and electrical components are housed in a steel case that can be opened by unsnapping the six spring loaded cover clamps. This part of the unit weighs a hefty 22.5 pounds. The generator rests on three aluminum legs that are inserted into the unit to form a tripod. One of the legs includes a wooded seat that snaps into place enabling the operator a relatively comfortable position for cranking.

According to the government manual, the GN-58 "is a hand-driven machine with its armature rotated through a step-up gear train from the cranks. The output of the armature section of the generator power supply consists of two independent voltages which are regulated by a voltage regulator. Both voltages are filtered to eliminate commutator ripple and rf interference."

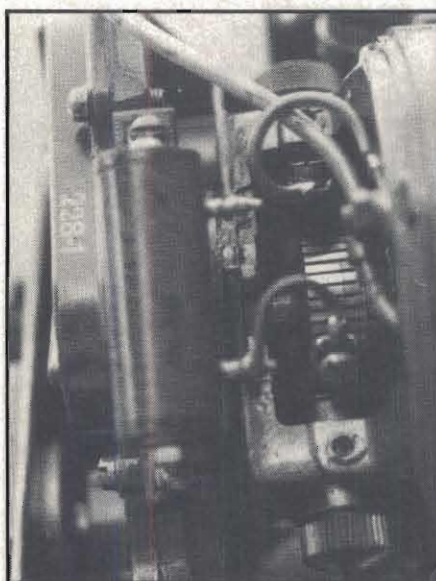
The unit we inspected looked brand new and when tested with a voltmeter it proved to work perfectly. A multi-pin socketed power cord is also available for connecting the generator to the RT-77 radio. These generators cost the government \$400 each during the 1960s. SI is presently selling them for \$95 plus \$9 shipping and handling. For more information contact: SI Outdoor Food and Equipment, 15600 S. Figueroa Street, Gardena, CA 90248; (800) 533-7415 or in California (213) 324-8855. ●



The GN-58 generator is shown charging a deep cycle battery. A 12-volt light bulb connected to the battery helps light the scene.



With the cover removed, the dynamo with its two commutators can be easily seen.



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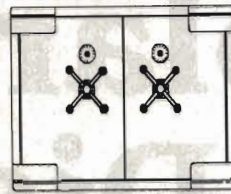
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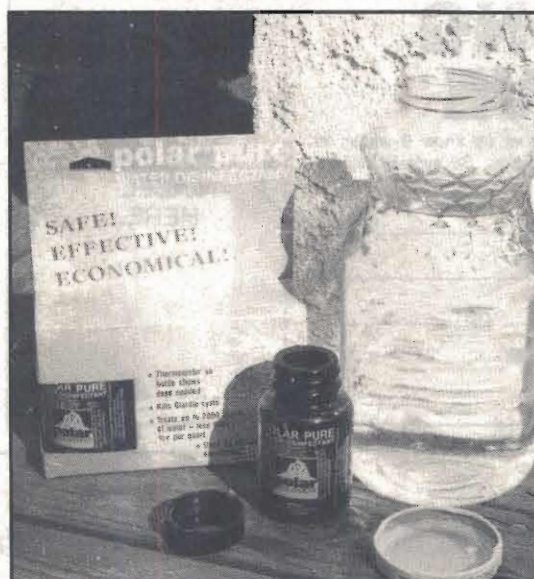
Staff Report

POLAR Pure water disinfectant, when used as directed, destroys water-borne pathogens, including Giardia cysts and other micro-organisms that pass through some filters. It's ideal for camping, backpacking, boating, home and car emergency kits and other survival uses.

One small bottle of Polar Pure and a little water is all you need for up to 2,000 quarts of purified water. This is equal to 40 bottles of water purification tablets and Polar Pure does a far better job and at only about 1/2 cent per quart of water!

Directions are on the bottle. A handy thermometer on the bottle shows the dose needed to purify water according to temperature. A bright green spot indicates 1.2 to 4 caps full of iodine solution needed per quart of water to be purified.

When shipped the bottle contains concentrated iodine crystals. You merely fill the bottle up with water, shake and let stand for 1 hour. Then read the thermometer, pour out the



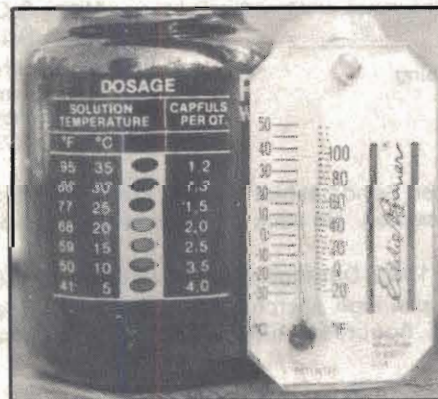
One small bottle of Polar Pure disinfects up to 2,000 quarts of water.



necessary dose and add to the water to be purified. After 20 minutes it's safe to drink. For more solution, just refill the bottle. A particle trap in the bottle prevents crystal loss. The solution is effective as long as any iodine crystals are visible in the bottle. It's potency is not affected by age, air or temperature. The concentrated solution

by itself is poisonous. *Keep out of reach of children.*

Polar Pure is available for \$12.75 plus \$2 S&H per bottle from NITRO-PAK Survival Foods & Supplies, Dept. ASG, 11018 E. Rosecrans Ave., Suite 300, Norwalk, CA 90650; (213) 929-4705. ●



Just add water to the bottle, read the thermometer on the back and pour the required dose into the water to be purified. After standing for 20 minutes, the water is fit to drink.

Norinco's 7.62 ammo is non-reloadable but you can reload the .223 brass. Ammo is fairly reasonable.

China Sports, Inc.:

Norinco Ammunition

*Chinese-made 7.62 X 39mm
(Russian) and 5.56mm NATO ammo test...*



Here's a shot of our target fired with the SKS using the green ammo. Howard Reed's three-shot group measured a tight 1.6 inches from 100 yards.

By Bud Lang

IT'S a matter of policy, you might say, that we evaluate any number of firearms in every issue. This is very natural seeing as how firearms can aid us in more ways than one. First, they might provide us with food should we live in any section of the country that has wild game. Second, they might protect us or our loved ones from the criminal element our lawmakers per-

mit to roam the streets and byways. Finally, firearms just might protect our nation from subversives or outside interests if we have the skills to use them properly.

But firearms in and of themselves can't perform these tasks. We have to have ammunition that is reliable and accurate to fulfill our needs of the moment. Towards this end we obtained a sampling of ammunition in both .223 Remington (5.56mm NATO) and

7.62X39mm Russian from China Sports, Inc., of Ontario, California, to try out in some of our personal rifles. The ammo in question is manufactured in the Peoples Republic of China, by Norinco.

It was suggested by the importer that we test the ammo in scoped rifles but we preferred to stick with our open metallic sights seeing as how the guns we would be using as a basis for our evaluation don't feature long barrels (anything over 24 inches we consider long), nor are they designed for long "work." We used a rifle rest at the forestock and sand bag at the butt stock, however, so we might obtain some semblance of repeat accuracy. While our test groups might not be as tight as the importer's scoped rifle tests, we consider them valid because few people with similar rifles will scope them.

And what might these be? For our 7.62 ammo tests we relied on a Valmet and a Norinco version of an SKS. We had two types of ammo for the 7.62 chambering, but only one loading in .223 Rem, so we broke out one of our FNCs. In addition to testing the Norinco ammo we also slipped in a few domestic boxes as a comparison, to get some idea of how this stuff performs. After all, what good are figures if you have nothing to compare them with.

Relative to performance, maybe we should relate some figures China Sports offered us for starters. Then we'll go on to our own testing.

They shipped a batch of their Norinco .223 Rem ammo with 55-grain full metal jacketed bullets to H.P. White Laboratory for evaluation. This lab is known nationwide for their precision ammo evaluations. Their .223 Rem pressure barrel is 24 inches long and the Boxer primed brass cases are reloadable. A 20-round lot of ammo produced an average velocity of 3,272 fps muzzle velocity. Standard deviation, which is interpreted to mean that after the high and low velocity readings are discounted (a safety measure in the



The author is shown firing the SKS in the wide open spaces (so we could get a better view of the rifle), but all tests were performed from a bench rest.



A second gun used in these tests was the Valmet, a first class civilian rifle.

event they are false), the remaining high and low velocity readings are more-or-less correct. In this event, the Sd reading for this one particular lot was 22 fps, pretty decent for a factory ammo. On the other hand, the spread between chamber pressure readings appeared extreme. It ran from 51,000 down to 44,600 copper units of pressure.

Another batch of .223 Rem ammo was submitted to Sierra Bullets for evaluation. They ran 10 rounds through a single shot, bolt action Remington XP-100 pistol set up in a machine rest. This means every time the gun is fired it will return to the precise position it recoiled from, so the potential for repeat accuracy is great. The barrel on this gun was a custom Hart barrel, with 1 in 10-inch twist.

Sierra fired 10 rounds of the .223 ammo, with the same 55-grain FMJ bullets, and produced a 10-shot group measuring 2¹³/₁₆-inch, center-to-center, at 200 yards. Damned good accuracy. To keep things in perspective, you must also remember that even though the test gun is a handgun, with its precision 15-inch barrel and use of a machine rest, this kind of accuracy is to be more-or-less expected. Silhouette shooters shooting the XP in a half-dozen different chamberings get this kind of accuracy daily, with open, metallic sights yet, shooting from a modified prone position. Still, we can't take away from the fact this ammo does exhibit exceptional accuracy potential for the average rifleman, like you and I.

Jumping over to the 7.62X39mm variety, we were offered two types for testing. Both are loaded with ball (FMJ) bullets, in steel cases that do not lend themselves to reloading. One loading

was in a *green* box, the other in a *silver* box. What's the difference? Both cartridges are military specification bullets with copper jackets and lead cores, but the *green* version also contains a tiny steel *penetrator*, as China Sports call it. We were informed the green boxed version with the penetrator is being discontinued because of the possibilities for brush fires due to ricochets.

We tested the Norinco ammo at a nearby range (Lake Elsinore Sportsman Association range, Elsinore, CA), shooting from a rest at 100 yards. We'll cover our tests in order of ammo used, beginning with the 7.62 type first. First gun up was the Valmet and the ammo was the new, silver box stuff. We fired a number of four-shot groups, and averaged 4.9 inches, center-to-center, for four rounds. Muzzle velocity, as proven on our Oehler Chronotach, was 2,373 fps. Then we switched rifles, testing the same silver type in the SKS piece. Although the pattern was a bit different, average extreme spread of this group was an identical 4.9 inches for four rounds.

Switching to the old green boxes, using the Valmet again, we realized a 5.2-inch group average. We shot a few groups in the SKS, which were about the same. We did fire one three-shot group that measured 1.6 inches. We didn't push our luck by attempting another shot or two at that target.

To get an idea of how the Norinco ammo compares to similar loadings, we tested some PMC 7.62 ammo, with 122-grain FMJ bullets, in our Valmet. Average for five-shot groups came out to 5.7 inches.

Next we broke out the FNC in .223 chambering. Testing the Norinco ammo, we averaged 4.3 inches for five-shot



Howard Reed ran quite a few rounds through our FNC, too.

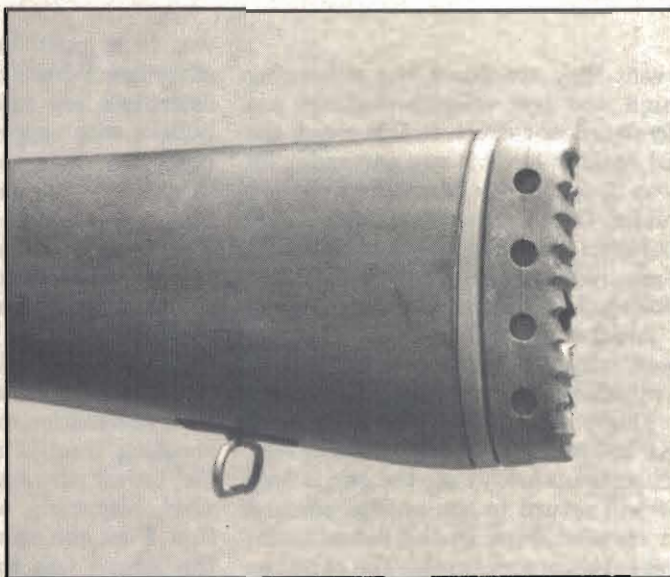
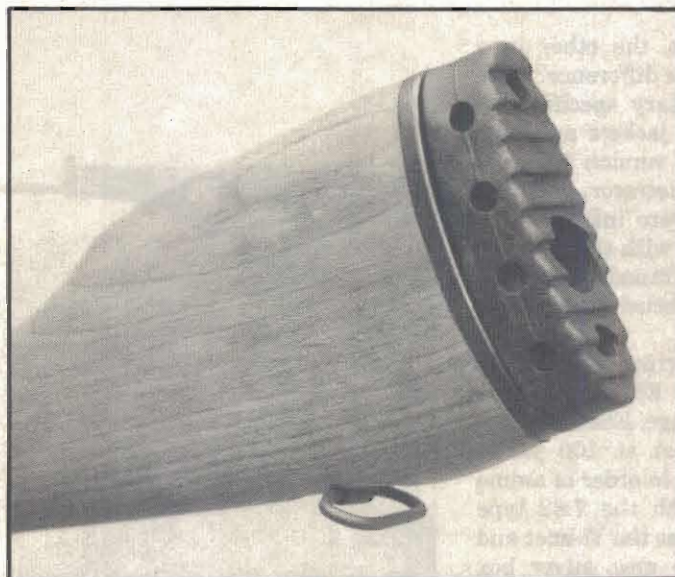
groups, fairly respectable. Opening a box of 55-grain FMC Winchester ammo, we realized an average group size for four rounds of 3.7 inches. We followed this with some Remington 55-grain Hollow Points, and came up with a darn good group average of 2.3 inches.

If these figures mean anything, the Norinco 7.62 ammo is slightly better than a similar brand. Our aim here is not to compare brands. But you have to have some idea of what these test figures mean, otherwise they're worthless. In .223 chambering, the domestic ammo is a lot better, but, then, so is the price. This is always something one has to take into consideration. The Norinco ammo is reasonably inexpensive, and relatively accurate, so we figure you can't do too bad here if you want something for plinking and practice. ●

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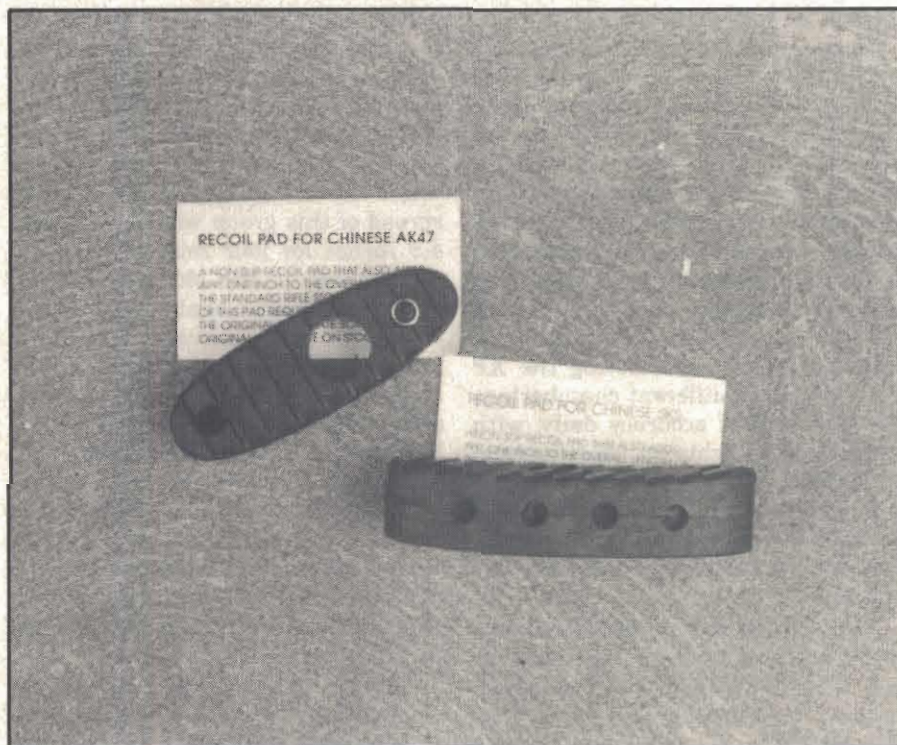


Staff Report

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Either recoil pad/stock extender is \$11.95 each postpaid (two pads for \$21 postpaid) in the continental U.S. or \$13.95 postpaid each (two for \$24 postpaid) to Alaska, Hawaii and Canada. Order from Sierra Supply, Dept. ASG, P.O. Box 1390, Durango, CO 81302; (303) 259-1822. ●



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- 3 Millirad scales reading from .1 to 1000 Mrd an hour
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Unit has remote probe, including Beta window, Skin Dose remote probe, rechargeable batteries and recharging unit and head phones. All come packed in a specially designed padded metal carrying case with instruction book.

THESE UNITS HAVE BEEN COMPLETELY CHECKED, CALIBRATED, AND COME WITH A CERTIFICATION NOTICE. NORMAL COST FOR THE CALIBRATION AND CERTIFICATION ALONE IS \$450.00 PER UNIT. There have been a number of PDR-63 sold to the public by others over the last few years without being checked or calibrated. Basically they are best used as good paperweights, for the units that we got were at least 50% low on every scale before we had them certified.

So if you want the finest in surplus radiation detection units available, these are for you. BUT WE HAVE LIMITED STOCK. It is strictly first come, first served on them. We do not expect them to become available again and not at this price if they are. #4890

AN/PDR-63 \$650.00 ppd.

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Made for the army ground troops in front line areas, this handy piece of equipment features a voice transmission range of approximately four miles using light gauge insulated wire (not included). Very easy to use, you simply press the generator lever to activate buzzer on the other phone. If silence is required you can turn buzzer off and use the visual indicator. Each phone has been checked out thoroughly and is guaranteed to be in working condition. Includes carrying case and a very complete and informative operational manual. A great way to provide communication on farms, at retreats or on your weekend maneuvers, and these are affordable! These units are getting very hard to find and so our stock is limited. #T115

Set of 2 Phones \$99.95 + 4.00 S&H

MEDIUM LC1 PACK AND FRAME



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closure and all is covered by waterproof flap to keep the moisture out. With the fully adjustable padded nylon shoulder straps, this lightweight and durable pack rides comfortably. Large main compartment measures approximately 18" x 18" x 12" and will hold everything you'll need to carry. Olive in color on black frame. Three cargo pockets measure 9" x 6" x 7". The real beauty of this pack is that it was made by the military and will probably outlast commercial packs five to one. #8035

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LARGE LC1 PACK AND FRAME



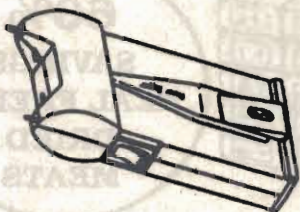
Our supplier of LC1s finally received some large packs and frames in the quality that we demand for our customers. We can now offer them at only a few dollars more than the more popular medium size.

This pack is for those who want to (and can) carry everything - and almost any weight. The same features and quality as the medium ones. We guarantee that you will not find a surplus set of this quality for anywhere near the price. #0504

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Internal Hand Cranked Generator and Rechargeable Battery

After three years examining and testing a number of emergency radios (most of which turned out to be toys) that can run off of an internal hand cranked generator we finally found one that was made well enough that we would be willing to have ours or our customers' lives depend on them. The Life+Guard met all of our requirements and passed all of our tests for dependability. It is well made and takes abuse as well as use. When I took the unit apart I found the guts of the system is a well-made generator that feeds a built in rechargeable battery. The unit can also be run off AC power with included adaptor - the one thing missing is a car lighter adaptor but one should not be hard to make from parts at any Radio Shack. The reception is exceptional on FM, adequate on AM, and the usual noisy hard-to-hear on the weather station. One of the features that sold us on the Life+Guard system is that two of them can be used as emergency walkie-talkies. Not that the range is great - line of

sight about half mile but only about 100 yards from house to house - but it does allow for communication between families in an emergency and you could listen to a more powerful local CB broadcast if you had a community emergency station. The Life+Guard also has a not very powerful but at least useful beam light. A fun feature is a siren which is good and loud and could be used to gather the family for dinner - the size of the Life+Guard does not make it practical for most purses. Made of bright yellow high impact plastic and well constructed inside and out - not of course to military specifications - the Life+Guard will take use and medium abuse. All of this in a unit only 11" long and about 4.5" square. We feel it should be an important part of emergency preparedness - but I have been using mine day in and day out because it receives one of my favorite FM stations better than my multi-thousand dollar stereo system. #0839

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A Good Survival Supply For Emergencies. This unit is an excellent base for providing a higher calorie supply by adding other items as money becomes available. Another feature that is nice is that it can be used as a six-month supply for a couple or a three-month supply for a family of four. When combined with your normal cupboard supply, you can see that it will allow you to help others for a short term emergency such as an earthquake, tornado, or snow storm.

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BOOKS/VIDEOS

(Continued from page 11)

cover; \$10 plus \$3.50 S&H.

"Good, solid switchblade knives can be incredible tools in the hands of people determined to use them well. Learn about these remarkable instruments — where they came from, how to use them, where to get them, their history, and the Federal law that makes them *theoretically* illegal." There have been only two or three half-serious court challenges in thirty years. No constitutional questions have been addressed pertaining to ownership of switchblade knives. Possession of weapons used for self-defense has never been illegal in the United States.

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The Tactical Use of Explosives: SPLLAT Munitions; a 60 minute video available in VHS or Beta; \$99.95. A second video about explosives has been newly released: **Deadly Explosives:** How and Why They Work, also 60 minutes. Specify VHS or Beta; \$79.95. CEP, Incorporated, P.O. Box 865, Boulder, CO 80306; (303) 443-2294. Add \$3.50 for shipping.

SPLLAT stands for Special Purpose Low-Lethality Anti-Terrorist. Chuck Byers, the world's leading manufacturer of antiterrorist munitions, offers tactical preparation, assault planning and classroom instruction in the safe, effective use of SPLLAT devices. Dramatic filming of on-site, real time situations allows you to be there as officers enter a simulated hostage situation, guns drawn, behind a sequence of stunning, disorienting explosions.

Deadly Explosives is a video that was shot using sophisticated camera equipment with high speed shutters to capture details in slow motion. Comparisons of C-4, dynamite, TNT, det cord, nito-based propellant, RDX and more are shown. Learn how to safely handle, store, and set up a complete range of explosives including the proper use of fuses, blasting caps and other detonating devices. For information purposes only. ●

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By Jim Benson

M1 Carbine

World War II military rifle still widely used today. . .



Wearry infantrymen of the 110th Regiment, 28th Division, U.S. First Army, following the German breakthrough in the Bastogne, Belgium, area in December 1944 when their battalion was overrun. The soldier on the left carries an M1 Carbine (U.S. Army).

DURING the battle in the California Legislature over the controversial bill (ultimately signed into law) to ban semiautomatic firearms, the legislation was modified in order to win a crucial vote from a Republican Legislator.

The popular M1 Carbine and Mini 14 rifle, included on early lists of firearms the anti-gun fanatics in the Legislature want banned, were removed from those lists to gain the critical support of Republican Assemblyman Charles Quackenbush of San Jose (the same city where the anti-gun movement figure Joseph McNamara is police chief).

Quackenbush went on to cast his votes for the gun ban legislation — one of only two Republicans in the state Assembly to do so — and thus ensure its passage. Under a compromise on the legislation worked out with our Republican Governor George Deukmejian, who turned his back on the semiautomatic firearm owners who voted for him, the left-wing anti-gun forces in California state government will now be able to go to court and have the M1 Carbine and Mini-14 banned whenever they see fit, along with many other semiautomatic firearms.

At this writing, the M1 and Mini-14 are still available for unrestricted sale in California and most of the rest of the nation. We discuss the Mini-14 elsewhere in this issue. Here we want to talk about the M1 Carbine, probably the most widely possessed semiautomatic rifle in this country, and still very popular today.

The M1 Carbine has been around for nearly half a century now — much longer than the rifle perhaps most hated and feared by the anti-gun fanatics, the AK-47 semiauto. Yet both are similar firearms. Both fire .30 caliber projectiles, both are gas operated semiautomatic weapons, both accept 30-round magazines.

Additionally, both have perfectly legitimate sporting uses: hunting, target practice, pleasure shooting, and could be used in competition shooting matches.

Both rifles of course were originally designed as weapons of war — as were most of our other firearms — and could be employed for self defense or the defense of our country.

The M1 Carbine fires the .30 Carbine round. It is less powerful than the 30.06 round fired by the M1 Garand



American soldiers with M1 Carbines guard Axis prisoners along the coast of France in 1944 (U.S. Army).



The carbine field stripped.



The Mini-14 Rifle bears a resemblance to the M1 Carbine. The Mini-14 design is based on the M1 and M14 military rifles.

rifle, which was also produced in quantity during WWII. The M1 Carbine was developed to replace the pistols used by noncommissioned officers, company-grade officers and special troops.

There were more carbines produced than any of the other U.S. weapons of the era. More than 6.3 million of these rifles and their variants were produced by Winchester, General Motors (the largest producer), Underwood, National Postal Meter, Rock-ola Mfg. Corp., Quality Hardware, Standard Products, Saginaw and IBM.

Besides the basic M1 Carbine delivering semiautomatic-only fire, there were the variations: M1A1 — same as M1 but with a folding metal butt stock; M2 — delivering selective fire (semi-auto and full auto); M3 — same as M2 but with its receiver grooved to accept a sniper scope and without a metal rear sight.

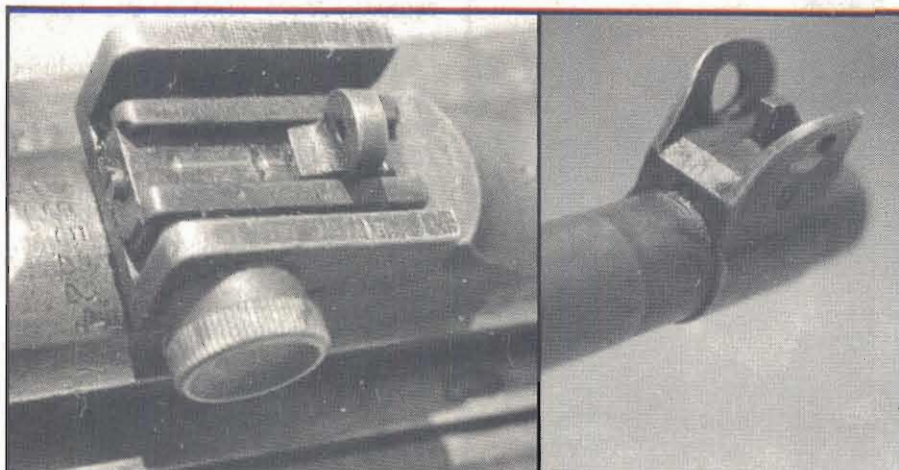
There's a tremendous amount of history behind these rifles and they are commonly seen in use with American troops in moving and still pictures taken during WWII, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. Though considered obsolete by most large military forces today, M1 Carbines are still used in many parts of the world. I have read that an estimated 4 million M1 Carbines are in civilian hands in the U.S. There are 15-round and 30-round magazines available for the carbine, and a 4-round hunting magazine is also available. Several of the staff of ASG own these rifles and are delighted with them. We purchased them from Beach Cities Armoury (204 S. Sepulveda Blvd., Manhattan Beach, CA 90266; 213-374-2227).

Being the original military rifles, these carbines have seen some use. Mine has a stock that's somewhat worn and nicked, but the barrel, action and other metal parts are in fine shape. My rifle is one of the 2.625 million carbines made by the Inland Manufacturing Division of General Motors. The manufacturing date stamped on the barrel reads "9-44." I was told this weapon was shipped back to the U.S. from Korea before I purchased it, so it may have been used in both WWII and the Korean War.

In test shooting my carbine and one belonging to another staffer, we were amazed at how well they function and how accurate they are.

The sights are among the best I've ever seen and seem all but soldier proof. You simply dial the rear sight in for distance and windage. The rear

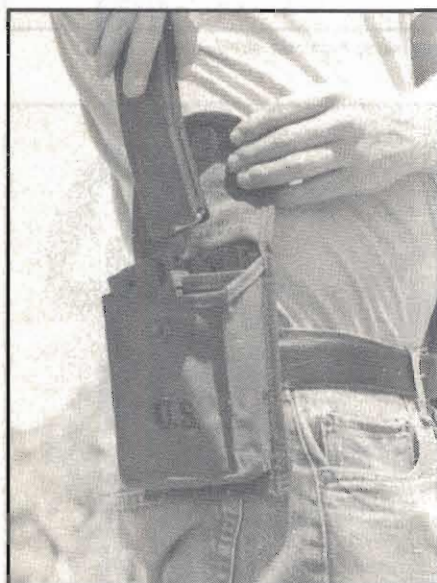
M1 Carbine



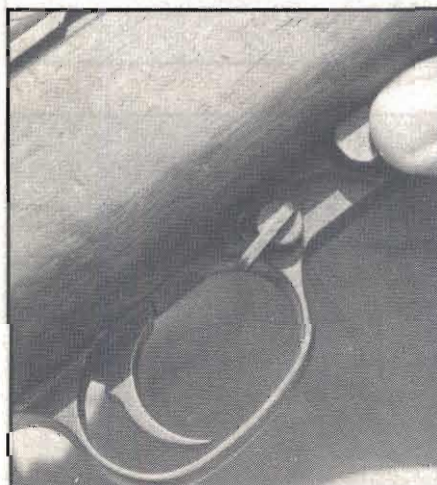
Rear sight is an aperture adjustable for windage and elevation. Front sight is a blade with protective wings.



These guns accept standard military 15- and 30-round magazines. A 4-round hunting magazine is also sold for them.



This military belt pouch holds four 30-round magazines for the M1 Carbine.



The magazine catch, right, and safety.

An oiler for the carbine is held in place by the sling in the butt stock.

sight is an aperture which slides between settings for 100, 200, 250 and 300 yards. Windage setting is a large knob that is click adjustable. You line up a white line with a scale of smaller white lines at the rear of the rear sight. Front sight is a fixed blade with protective wings.

After adjusting our sights on both rifles, we were able to hit our 75-to 100-yards distant targets repeatedly and with ease.

Recoil is light with these guns, another factor we like about them. We were firing 110-grain full metal jacketed, boxer primed, non-corrosive .30 Carbine ammunition made in the Philippines. While this round doesn't have the power of the 7.62 X 39mm cartridge fired in the AK-47, we consider it an effective round nevertheless for hunting, target shooting or self defense. We experienced a couple of misfires with this ammunition but we recycled the non-firing rounds and they worked fine on the second try. Thirty Carbine ammunition is commonly available on the commercial market today. We could only find new commercial ammo, most of the surplus military stuff having been bought and apparently stashed during the great anti-gun push this year.

The M1 Carbine is easy to maintain. Field stripping is fairly easy and begins with loosening the front band screw and removal of the recoil plate screw at the rear of the receiver. The barrel and receiver are then lifted out of the stock for further disassembly and cleaning.

If you're looking for a relatively inexpensive multi-purpose rifle with a proven record of performance, you ought to consider one of these great little carbines. They're hard to beat and are selling for about \$200 to \$300. ●

M1 Carbine Tech Specs

Caliber	.30 Carbine
action/operation	semiauto/gas
Weight, empty	5 lbs., 11 ozs. with sling
Length, overall	35.5 inches
Barrel length	18 inches
Magazine capacities	15-rd, 30-rd, 4-rd (hunting)
Muzzle velocity	1,970 fps
Sights	adjustable aperture rear, front blade
Sight radius	21 3/4 inches (at 100-yard setting)

NITRO-PAK

*An interview with Harry R. Weyandt, owner of
NITRO-PAK Survival Foods & Supplies...*



Harry R. Weyandt, owner of NITRO-PAK Survival Foods & Supplies.

By Jim Benson

IN a major expansion move, NITRO-PAK Survival Foods & Supplies has purchased Survivalist Clearinghouse which offers one of the most extensive lines of survival products in the industry. We talked with NITRO-PAK owner Harry Weyandt recently about his company's growth and what customers can expect in terms of goods and services now that the two companies are combined into one operation.

Q. What led to your purchasing SCH and what plans do you have for the future of NITRO-PAK?

A. We felt further expansion of NITRO-PAK was inevitable and when the opportunity came to acquire SCH we felt the timing was right.

We are now in a position to serve our customers even better by offering a wider and greatly expanded product line and customer services. Our name will remain the same but we will be incorporating the best features of SCH into NITRO-PAK.

As for our future, we see our business continuing to grow even more in the coming months. We are constantly scouring the country seeking new and innovative products for our customers' peace of mind and security. I personally test each product we offer for quality, reliability and value. That's how we can offer our exclusive 90-day risk-free, money-back guarantee of satisfaction on everything we sell. It's not just our goal to achieve 100 percent customer satisfaction, but our promise! We continually strive to bring the dream of real peace of mind and security to the American family.

NITRO-PAK has been able to grow and prosper due to our product mix, reasonable prices, personalized customer service, our money-back guarantee and our "We Care" attitude. Our customers have told us they appreciate the fact they can get answers to their survival-related questions. We treat our clients like friends who are seeking our help and are always willing to take the time necessary to answer their questions and we will tailor plans

just right for their current needs. Our customers know we always deliver what we promise and they can talk to me personally anytime to solve a problem or answer a question.

Q. How did you originally get into this business and conceive of NITRO-PAK?

A. It all started back several years ago when I was putting together my own survival supplies. You know, I kind of see myself as the ultimate Boy Scout — always striving to "be prepared." I believe I have a duty and responsibility to myself and my family to provide adequate protection and back-up plans and to be as self-sufficient as possible — just in case.

One never knows just when a crisis or disaster may strike but when the moment of truth arrives it will be too late to start preparing.

Another thing that bothered me was the freshness of foods I was purchasing off dealers' shelves. One dealer was selling foods from a company that had gone out of business five years earlier. Today our company cans up to 90 percent of the foods we offer within a matter of days of the orders received by us. No one offers fresher foods than we can. In addition, some of my friends asked if I could also assist them in obtaining survival supplies.

And so, as they say, the rest is history.

Q. Why have you issued an alert to your clients suggesting that they add to their survival food reserves and supplies now?

A. I try to keep abreast of current trends and world situations that could adversely affect people, whether it be temporary or long term. Many respected economic advisors such as Howard Ruff, Gary North and Don McAlvany have all issued warnings to their subscribers of the possibility of a severe recession or even a depression within the next 12 months or less and have advised their subscribers to obtain

NITRO-PAK



This family displays emergency storage foods and equipment available from NITRO-PAK.

a year's food reserve now.

We believe there is a very real possibility of a critical economic downturn coming, in addition to drought-related food shortages that we know are coming. Either could become catastrophic.

Just take a look at today's headlines, i.e., the bank and S&L crisis, huge budget deficits, the Third World debt crisis, record personal and corporate bankruptcies, the farm and drought crisis, etc., etc. The parallels between 1929 and 1989 are so very close you cannot seriously ignore them. I think when you add it all up, things are a lot more serious than we have been led to believe.

I personally believe that there has never been a better time than right now to begin or add to one's survival food reserve and related provisions. I myself have just reviewed and upgraded my own reserves. Things happen too quickly today to risk being caught unprepared.

Q. What steps then would you recommend to our readers, many of whom are also concerned, so that they might better weather the food shortages and economic storms you foresee?

A. I think Howard Ruff summed it up best when he recently told his subscribers: "No matter how extreme the idea seems at first blush, food storage is still the first step you must take to protect yourself in a volatile and uncertain world."

I would give the same advice to your readers. First and foremost would be

an investment in a year's food storage reserve for each member of your household. It is really a survival insurance policy you can eat and stay alive on.

The second thing I would recommend is to have on hand an emergency water storage reserve. In the event of disaster such as a major earthquake, hurricane, tornado, flooding, nuclear war or other catastrophe, water supplies could be cut off from several days to months.

Under normal circumstances, one can live up to several weeks without food but only three days without water. So it's vital to have a back-up water reserve. We recommend that you store two gallons of water per day per family member for a two-week period. In other words, about 28 to 30 gallons per person as a minimum. This water would be used for drinking and food preparation only, so if you're planning on taking a quick solar shower or to take care of hygiene needs, you should plan on adding reserves to cover them. This can easily be accomplished by using economical 15- or 30-gallon new plastic containers. One additional thing you'll need is a good water filter for removing any harmful bacteria or other micro-organisms. The best protection for the money would be our Swiss Katadyn filters.

Lastly, I would recommend having back-up supplies for emergency lighting, heat, cooking, first aid gear, everyday essentials such as soap, toilet tissue, etc., cash money and protection

devices.

Q. What would you look for before purchasing a pre-packaged food unit today?

A. It can be confusing to look at different dealers' "year supply" food units since they differ widely, but here are a few general things I would definitely look for.

The foods within the unit should be familiar to your family — they should be foods you might normally eat. This is important because it has been proven that some people, especially young children and senior adults, will actually starve themselves to death rather than eat something totally foreign to their tastes.

Another thing I would be careful of is just looking at the price alone. You should really get down and look at what amount of calories and protein the unit provides and also see what you are getting for your money. According to nutritional studies by the Red Cross and Brigham Young University, the average male in the U.S. uses about 3,100 calories and between 70 to 100 grams of protein per day. For a female it's about 2,300 calories and 60 to 80 grams of protein. You may even need more than that if you are going to be engaged in manual labor such as in a reconstruction effort that would be required after a major disaster. So I'd want a food unit that would at least provide me with a minimum of 2,000 to 2,300 calories a day to start.



Another thing I would look for is the variety of food offered. Better year supply units will have a good variety of whole grains, legumes, the best in dehydrated fruits and vegetables, dairy products and other essentials. Some may even contain freeze-dried items like real meats. The most convenient and economical units are packed in double enamel #10 size cans and have been nitro-packed using a vacuum chamber. The quality of the cans themselves would be an important consideration for me. The industry standard is the use of double enamel cans, which means they have been coated inside and out with enamel for added protection. NITRO-PAK uses these double enamel cans.

Every one of our year's supply food units provide a nutritionally balanced diet of at least 2,000 calories per day (except our starter Economy-Pak which provides 1,750 calories per day) and meets the criteria I have already mentioned.

Lastly, I would look at the reputation of the company and see if they stand behind their products with a money-back guarantee.

Q. What should one expect to pay for a good, solid storage food reserve?

A. If you were to purchase a unit like the one I'd be looking for to protect my own family, you could reasonably expect to pay somewhere between \$1,200 and \$2,800 per unit, depending on the unit's size, items included and what if any discount the dealer offered you.

Our best selling ULTIMATE-PAK goes for \$1,929 (reg. \$2,697), and provides over 3,000 calories a day. That comes to about \$1.80 per meal. NITRO-PAK does offer several lower priced units with less calories and quantities of foods for customers who don't want that much food. It's OK to get a good deal from a dealer but just be sure you know what you are really getting.

Q. Could you briefly explain the difference between low moisture, dehydrated and freeze-dried foods?

A. When you see the words "low moisture" this is generally referring to both low moisture grains, which are best for long term storage, and dehydrated fruits and vegetables along with powdered products such as milk. Dehydrated foods have been slowly dried using low circulating heat to remove up to 98 percent of their moisture, which prevents spoilage and greatly extends their storage life. Dehydrated

foods have the lowest nutritional loss of all storage or store bought foods — less than 5 percent — and are the most cost efficient.

As for freeze-dried foods, the process is just another form of dehydration except that the foods have already been cooked and prepared prior to freezing them under controlled conditions and then removing the moisture as they thaw. The result is food that retains its basic looks and shape yet is now only a fraction of its former weight. Freeze-dried foods do cost considerably more in comparison to dehydrated foods and also require up to double the storage space but they are definitely more convenient to prepare and eat. Just add water and reheat.

If storage space is at a premium at your home, then your best bet would be to store mostly low moisture foods and add a few freeze-dried items like real meats or casseroles.

For more information about NITRO-PAK foods or the company, contact Harry Weyandt at NITRO-PAK Survival Foods & Supplies, Dept. ASG, 11018 E. Rosecrans Ave., Suite #300, Norwalk, CA 90650; or call (213) 929-4705. Their current catalog is available for \$2. ●

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The American people know that when the unexpected happens, they must provide for their own defense. That is why half of all households legally own firearms. Many of these are semi-automatic firearms which would be taken from law-abiding citizens under the guise of current crime control proposals.

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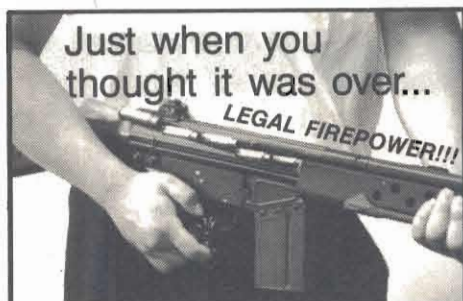
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Prize No. 5

Personal Electronics has provided an array of sophisticated devices for prize number five. Starting with the Defender Pro-40, a powerful stun gun with 40,000 volts and triple the amperage of most stun guns. The Defender comes with a handy belt holster. Next is the Scorpion. This stun gun has a switch for 50,000 volts or 25,000 to be used for snakebites to canines. Dog Guard is a protection device for those who fear dog attacks. At

the touch of a button, very powerful high pitched sound waves are emitted to stop dogs in their tracks. And finally, the Electronic Mosquito Repeller clips to the shirt pocket for protection against mosquitos and other biting insects. It emits high frequency sound waves that keep insects at bay within a nine foot radius. Personal Electronic Protection Services, P.O. Box 1044-E, Dept. ASG, Paradise, CA 95967; (916) 877-2337. Total value for all of these products is \$172.80.



Prize No. 1

The SI Year's Supply with real meats is a basic, yet varied food storage unit that will provide approximately 1,200 calories and 70 grams of protein per day for one person for one year. Air dried and freeze dried dehydrated foods are packed in 69 heavy-duty No. 10 cans and provide a varied diet including meats, fruits, grains, wheat, milk, eggs, vegetables, essential

fats and oils and sugar sources. The year supply comes with plastic lids to use once the cans have been opened and a cookbook is also included. The unit is packaged in 12 storage boxes that will store in a space only 24 inches wide, 19 inches deep and 44 inches high. Survival Incorporated, 15600 S. Figueroa St., Dept. ASG, Gardena, CA 90248; (213) 324-8855. Retail value of this unit is \$900. Recipient must pay for cost of shipping.



Prize No. 3

The Special Ops Tanto by Cold Steel is a Cutlery Shoppe exclusive and comes with a Ki Quick draw sheath. The knife is made of quality stainless steel throughout, including the guard and pommel and has the comfortable non-slip Kraton handle. Blade length is 5 3/4 inches with an overall length of 11 1/8 inches. Cutlery Shoppe, 5461 Kendall Street, Dept. ASG, Boise, Idaho 83706; (208) 376-0430. Retail value is \$129.95. Two professionally produced video tapes are also included in prize three. *The Defensive Edge*, volume one and two features Ernie Franco and teaches defensive maneuvers to combat against knife attacks. Learn close range counters, parries, deflections, and training methods. A good way to learn evasive tactics and methods for disarming an aggressor. Ernie Franco, 8173 Monte Vista, Dept. ASG, Upland, CA 91786. The tapes retail for \$39.95 each or \$69.95 for both.



Prize No. 2

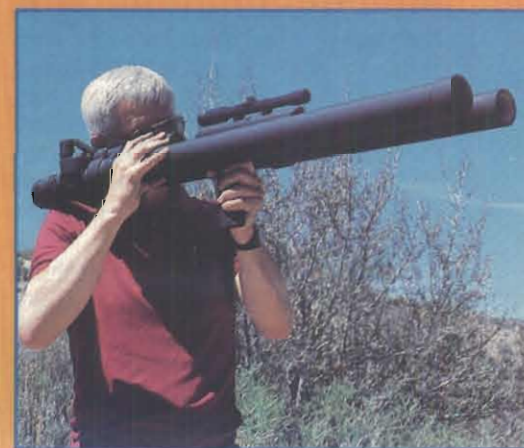
The 14-Day Emergency Kit from NITRO-PAK contains essential supplies you may need should earthquake, flood, or some other disaster force you to evacuate your home. The unit weighs 44 pounds and stores in a convenient carry bag. Food is supplied by 14 MRE meal units and a bottle of survival food tablets. A three day supply of water is provided by 12

sealed foil water pouches. Other supplies include water purification tablets, stove-grille and fuel, combat casualty blanket, poncho, heat packs, waterproof matches, 60-hour emergency candles, flashlight, solar-powered AM/FM radio, deluxe first-aid kit, potassium iodine, NBC-rated gas mask and more. NITRO-PAK, 11018 E. Posecrans Ave., Suite 300, Dept. ASG, Norwalk, CA 90650; (213) 929-4705. Retail value is \$298.95.

Prize No. 4

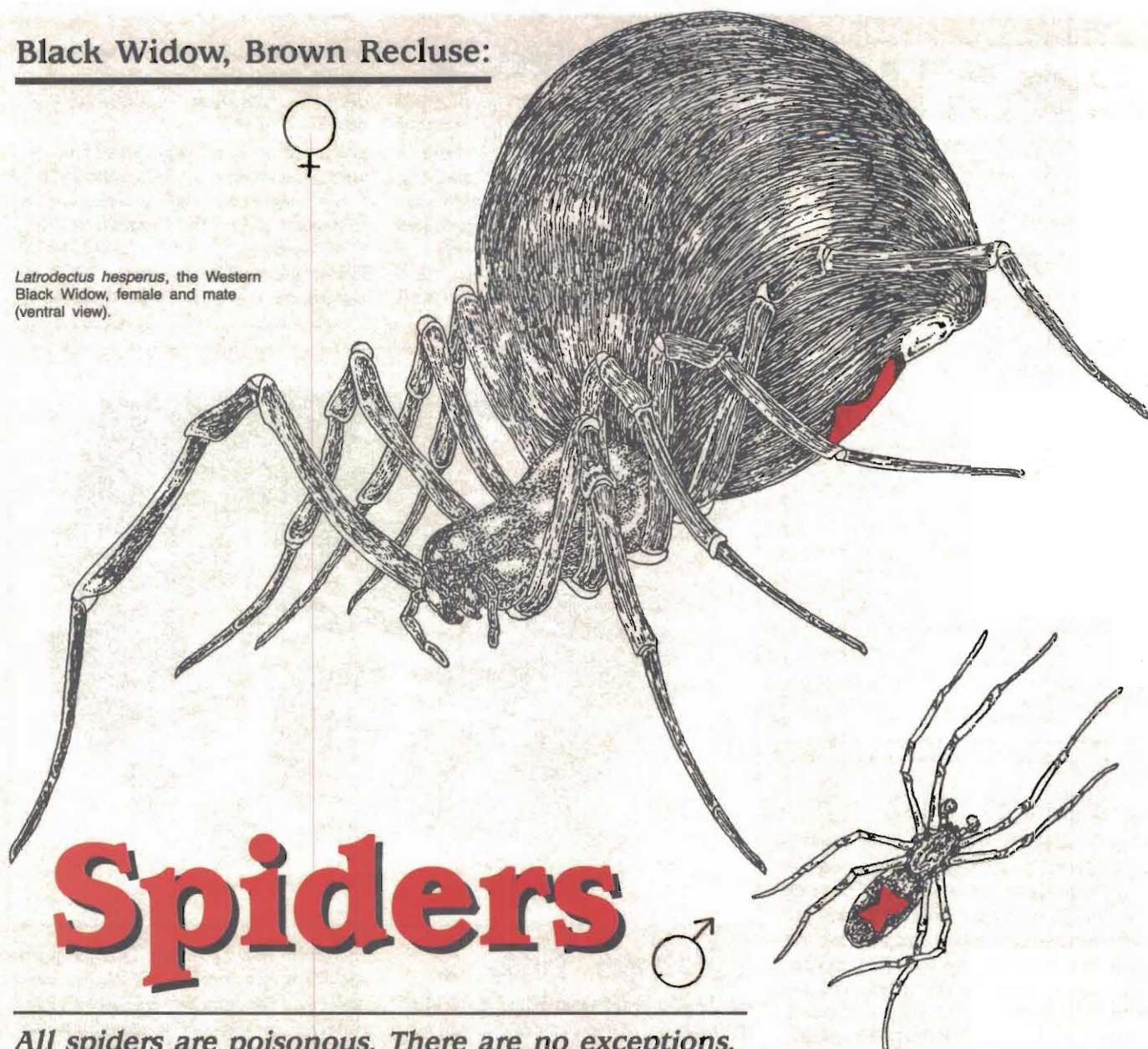
AirPower's Sabot Cannon is a bazooka-like airgun that can launch .50 caliber lead or steel balls and also fin-stabilized darts a distance of 20 to 100 yards. It weighs eight pounds and is made of rugged hard plastic. The cannon is charged with 100 lbs. of compressed air using either a foot pump or an automobile 12 volt air compressor. Firing is virtually silent and because primers, gunpowder and special bullets are not necessary, the Sabot Cannon makes a good survival weapon. AirPower Sabot Cannons, 2550 Chandler, Suite 26ASG, Las Vegas, NV

89120; (702) 798-0100. Retail value is \$129.95.



Black Widow, Brown Recluse:

Latrodectus hesperus, the Western Black Widow, female and mate (ventral view).



All spiders are poisonous. There are no exceptions. But two types are far more poisonous than most. . .

By Bennett Viken and Robin Sutton

THE call came out one hot, dry August afternoon. I had never seen my mother so worried. We drove the short trip to the small hospital in Wahoo, Nebraska, in no time. My father was in a bed upstairs, an IV dripping into one arm and a square bandage on the other. He was smiling, telling everyone not to worry that day. But a day later his arm had swollen and the all-too-familiar lines of blood poisoning raced up and down in angry red stripes.

It was touch and go for the better part of a week, but he pulled through. I'll never forget the doctor inviting my mother and me into his office to show us a fat, round black spider in a small

bottle of alcohol. It had a bright red drop of color on its belly.

That was the start of my lifelong fascination with such creatures. How could such a small, almost insignificant, animal lay low a strapping 6' 1" 195 pound man in the prime of life? A little animal designed to catch flies?

To avoid finding yourself in a predicament like my father's, it's best to know a little about the creatures and their habits. Understanding how they live and where they are apt to be found can help prevent any nasty encounters.

To begin with, all spiders are poisonous. There are no exceptions to this rule. The spider gets its food by piercing its prey with fangs and injecting venom to kill it. The fangs and the thick short stalks connecting them to

the body are called *chelicerae*. Along with the venom the spider also injects strong enzymes, which, in effect, liquify the prey. The spider then literally drinks its supper, for the *chelicerae*, whether of the pinching, tong-like type or the stabbing, recurved type are not suited to chewing.

Although all spiders kill their prey and ingest it in the same way, they have developed three main styles of prey gathering. They hunt, running over the ground like the swift Wolf Spiders, ponderous Tarantulas and leaping Jumping Spiders. They lay in ambush like the stocky Trapdoor Spider, the chameleon-like Crab Spider that can change color to match its flower, or the elegant Lynx Spider. Or they entrap their prey in intricately woven webs.

Of course there are exceptions — such as the Spitting Spider, which

actually shoots a jet of sticky gossamer to snag unwary passers by; or the Fisher Spider, who is large and swims well enough to prey on minnows; and the Ant Spider, who mimics ants so successfully it can walk among armies of its prey undetected. By and large, however, spiders earn their living by hunting, ambushing or trapping.

We are, perhaps, most familiar with web entrapment and the beautiful intricacy of the spider's web. The web itself is manufactured entirely by the spider from ingredients produced internally and then spun in fine strands through its *spinnerets*. Despite the web's apparent fragility, the silk from a spider's web is strong. During the early days of WWII, this silk was used for crosshairs in bombsights. To spin this strong, delicate silk, the spider must draw from his inner resources. Research has proven that a spider can spin no more than three webs without eating, and, of course, without a web he cannot trap prey to eat.

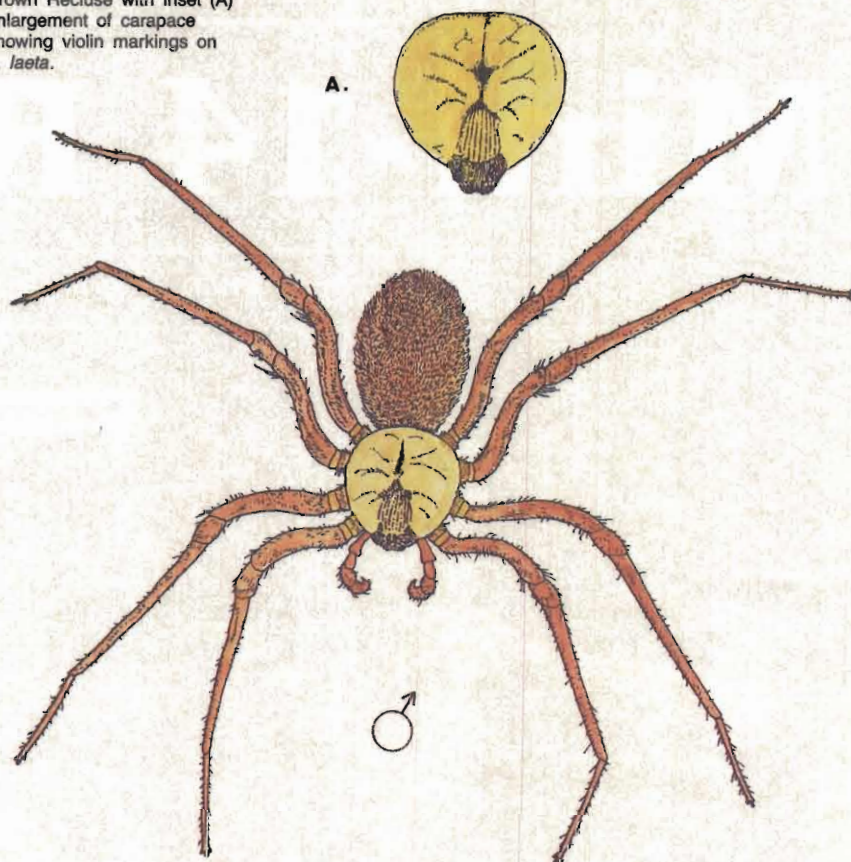
There are two types of webs, essentially, spun by spiders. Orb-Weavers produce the ornate, symmetrical webs known for their round, globular patterns. Although Orb-Weavers are among the largest spiders, there are none that we know to be seriously venomous.

Among the Irregular-Web-Weavers, however, we find two of our most notorious villains, the Black Widow and the Brown Recluse.

The irregular web spun by these spiders tends to be of a sketchier design than the symmetrical orb. Essentially its design requires two long, strong planes for anchoring the ends of the web. Such planes are a prominent feature of the corners we've designed into our own buildings. Despite their reputations, these spiders generally demonstrate a shy, retiring nature. As an expression of this shyness, they choose to put their webs in hidden, out-of-the-way places. While spiders will certainly bite in self defense, a good many mistakes undoubtedly occur when a stray hand or finger blunders into a web and a hungry spider rushes out for a meal.

The Black Widow, *Latrodectus mactans*, likes to put its web in out of the way places such as hollow trees and deserted buildings. On one hunting trip while standing on the back steps of a derelict farmhouse, I counted 12 Black Widows in the mudroom. Wood-piles, basements and attics are other favored spots for web-spinning. Another preferred haunt that has provided some

Loxosceles reclusa, the Brown Recluse with inset (A) enlargement of carapace showing violin markings on *L. laeta*.



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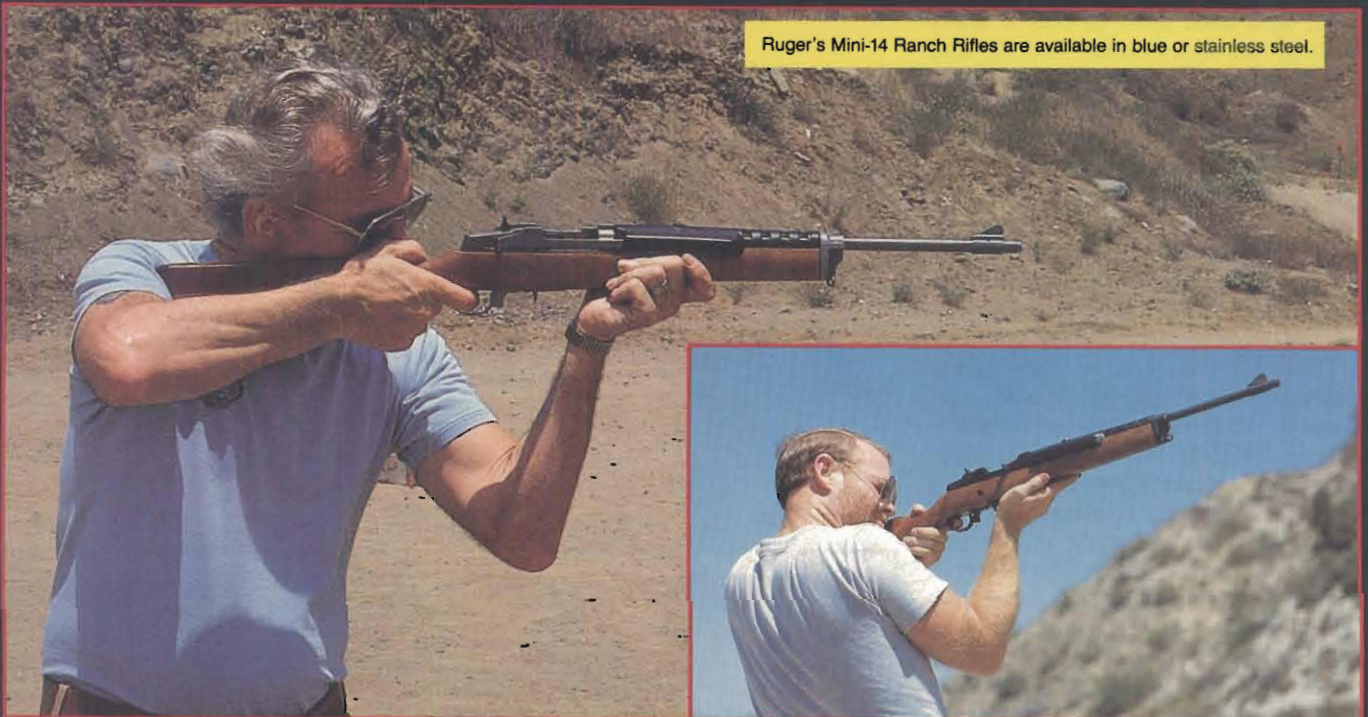
(Continued on page 66)

Compact, Lightweight:

Mini-14 Rifles

Among the most popular U.S. sporting rifles. . .

Ruger's Mini-14 Ranch Rifles are available in blue or stainless steel.



This Mini-14 is equipped with Ram-Line accessories: a folding stock, 30-round plastic ~~see-through~~ magazine, bipod and scope mount.

By Bud Lang

IT'S hard to believe the Sturm, Ruger & Company Mini-14 is 18 years old now, older than some of the youngsters cutting their teeth on this fantastic little carbine.

The Mini-14 is not a scaled down version of the military's M-14, but it's the next best thing, borrowing from the better features of the M-14. It's also quite similar in size and looks to the military's M1 Carbine, but the Mini-14's .223 Remington (5.56mm) cartridge is superior to the blunt-nosed .30 Carbine round.

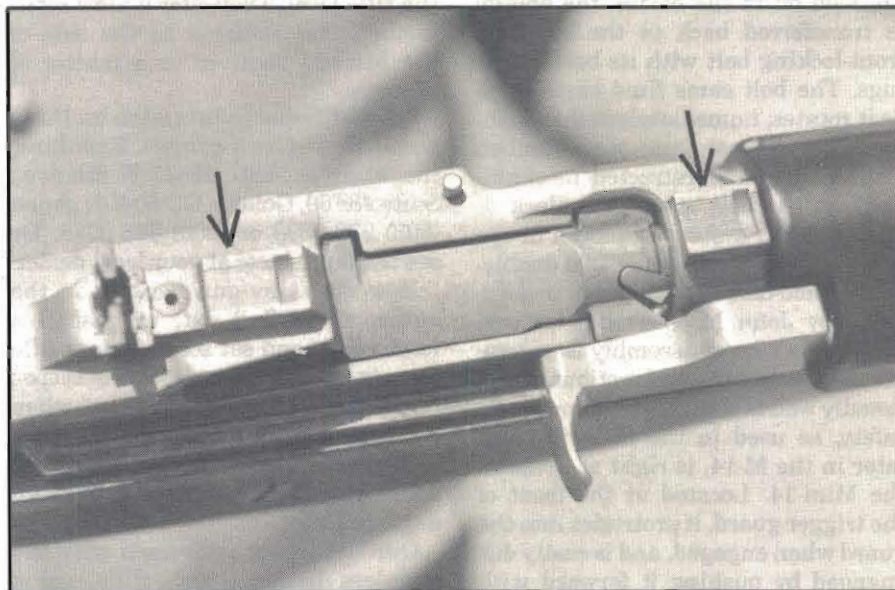
Labeled a compact lightweight auto-loader by Ruger, the Mini-14 was originally designed for possible military duty and law enforcement, but most of these guns have been acquired by civilians. I bought my first Mini-14 in late-1980, a 181 series that replaced the earlier 180 series around 1978. It so happens that when the 180 was converted to full-auto for police use, the rate of fire was too rapid. An altered gas system and beefed up operating slide stopped this problem. In recent years the 181 has been joined by the Ranch Rifle version, which features a receiver designed to accommodate telescopic sights without having to add an accessory mount.

Wasn't too long after a dozen accessory manufacturers got into the act of offering folding stocks for these rifles that Ruger finally "joined the party," and for a few years civilians could buy their folding stock models. Then it happened! After years of failing to come down hard on criminals, California's liberal-dominated, pansy-led, legislators, abetted by a liberal news media, started the ball rolling nationwide with a law making it virtually criminal to use/own civilian versions of military firearms, or any firearm that might look like it wanted to go to war.

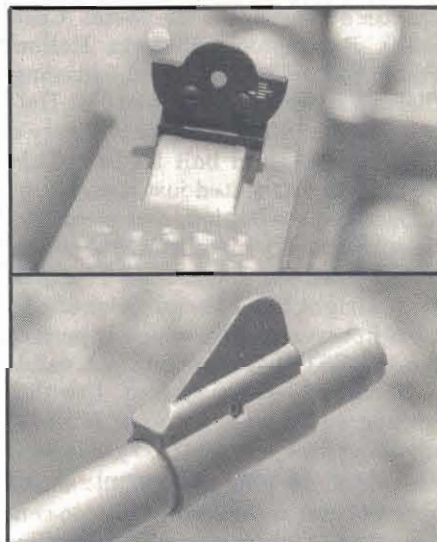
On a federal level, Ruger appealed to government lackies to not only go after criminals, but consider banning max capacity magazines, not guns. To prove they were serious, Ruger halted sales of folding Mini-14's to civilians along with any magazine carrying more than five rounds (The staff of ASG opposes banning either guns or magazines — crack down on criminals using guns, not law-abiding citizens). For now, the Ruger Mini-14 is not on any banned list, but give the politicians time. Buy yours today if you want one of the finest little guns



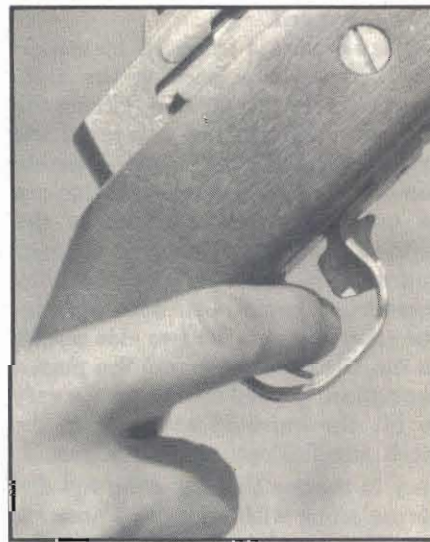
It's an easy job to field strip the Mini-14 for cleaning. Be sure to get the gas system clean if you want it to function perfectly.



The Mini-14 bolt locks up very similar to the battle-proven Garand M1. Note integral scope ring mounts on the Ranch model's receiver.



The peep sight on the Ranch model is simple, but very functional. The front sight is glare-free and very durable.



With the safety lever to the rear, simply nudge it forward with the trigger finger when you're ready to shoot.

Mini-14 Rifles

ever made.

The stainless and blue full-stock versions shown here are 1989 Ranch Rifles, while our blue Mini-14 tricked out with Ram-Line accessories is an earlier 181 series. The Ranch model also features a new (patented), unique buffer system that redirects and effectively absorbs recoil shock to help protect the scope. There is also a redesigned bolt ejector system and other desirable features.

Blued Mini-14s feature actions of chrome-moly steel. Both the blued and stainless models work with a fixed piston/moving cylinder gas system in conjunction with a simplified Garand-type rotating bolt. As propellant gases are bled off in the barrel, the energy is transferred back to the rotating, front-locking bolt with its beefy, twin lugs. The bolt cams fired cases loose as it rotates, immediately before withdrawing the case from the chamber. The firing pin is retracted mechanically as the bolt starts to unlock.

The trigger system employed in the Mini-14 is a Ruger version of a double-sear/double-hammer hook system developed by John M. Browning around 1900. This trigger assembly is uncomplicated in design and functions exceptionally well in a semi-auto. Browning's safety, as used in the M-1 rifle and later in the M-14, is right at home in the Mini-14. Located at the front of the trigger guard, it protrudes into the guard when engaged, and is easily disengaged by pushing it forward with the front of the trigger finger. The safety blocks both hammer and sear when engaged.

Disassembly is achieved by removing the magazine, cocking the hammer by retracting the bolt, letting the slide go forward, then engaging the safety, after which the trigger assembly can be removed. While a cartridge can be used to unlock the rear of the pivoted, locked-over-center, trigger guard, a la M-1 Garand, a stubby screwdriver works best. With the trigger assembly out, the two side screws in the stock removed, and the plastic vent guard popped off, it's pretty easy to lift the barreled action from the stock itself. From there it's just as easy to remove the operating rod and spring along with the bolt. These are the steps you should take to clean the gas system, which does suffer from carbon buildup.

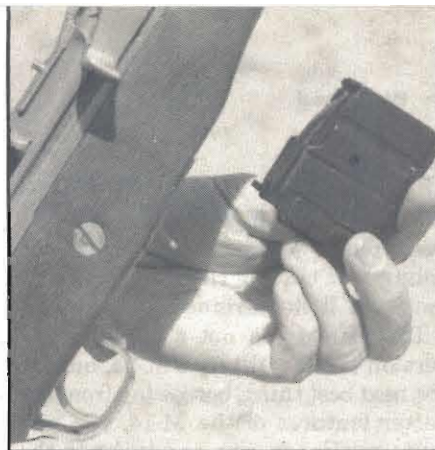
While Ruger's '89 catalog does state that "Sportsmen and hunters will find the new folding stock model especially convenient..." don't you believe it. Now you have to call on a Ram-Line dealer if you want a folder, as well as a 30-round magazine. The Ram-Line mag not only folds around against the right side of the action, but the butt plate folds up, too. Spring loaded buttons in the folder allow you to open or close the unit easily. Ram-Line also offers the Mini-14 user a neat, lightweight quick-detachable bipod, that clamps anywhere along the barrel. Because this unit swivels about the barrel tube, it works great on rough terrain, permitting you to always keep the rifle level. They offer a nifty scope mount, that attaches to the side of the Mini-14 receiver in a matter of minutes.

For additional information on these products, you can contact Ram-Line, Inc., at: Dept. ASG, 15611 W. 6th Ave., Suite #8F69, Golden, CO 80401; phone (303) 279-0899 or (800) 888-0375. Or see these products at your local dealer.

How does this gun perform in the outdoors? To find out, we visited a local range and set some Outers rifle targets up at 100 yards. While scopes are nice, we tend to think that when it comes to accuracy, or tight groups, metallic sights will tell the user more about his rifle and personal skills than anything else.

Our tests were performed with the stainless Ruger Ranch Rifle, using three domestic loads and one military load. Those rounds tested were Winchester's 55-grain Full Metal Case (ball), Remington's 55-grain Hollow Point, Federal's Match load featuring Sierra's super 69-grain Boat-Tail Hollow Point bullet, and the military's SS109, a 62-grain ball loading. This last round was tested just recently in a Dae Woo evaluation, and proved to be outrageously inaccurate due to the barrel twist. The Ruger Mini-14 comes with a right hand barrel twist of one turn in seven inches, which is perfect for the SS109 if our tests are valid.

Here are some typical five-shot groups we achieved with our Mini-14, shooting from a rest at 100 yards with the standard rear peep sight. These groups are measured center-to-center at maximum spread. The Winchester load averaged 3.6 inches for five rounds; the Remington load aver-



Lean on the magazine release lever, and the mag drops right out. This is the stock five-rounder. You can buy 20- and 30-round mags, too.

aged 3.1 inches; the Federal Match load 3.5 inches; and, the SS109 load a tight, 1.7 inches. This latter group would likely shrink to one-half that size if we scoped the gun.

Must make one comment about the factory wooden stock as opposed to the Ram-Line plastic stock. Shooting the gun "out of the box," the factory Ruger sounds like a bunch of springs are bouncing around inside each time a round goes off. I've tested a number of other semiautos that sounded the same way, so I guess it's part of the breed. But, when we shot the Mini with the Ram-Line folder in place, the noise disappeared. Evidently the noise doesn't affect accuracy, but it does something to your concentration.

Local dealers/distributors still having a supply of Ruger Mini-14's with folding stocks will certainly part with them for the right price, otherwise you'll have to be content with blue or stainless Mini-14's in standard or Ranch models. Whichever one you elect to go for will certainly give you your dollar's worth. I've been using mine for eight years now, and it's still going strong. ●

Mini-14 Ranch Rifles: Tech Specs

Caliber	5.56mm (.223 Rem)
Action/operation	semiauto/gas
Safety	Trigger safety
Magazine Capacity	5 rounds (extra capacity mags available)
Barrel Length	
Overall Length	
(full stock)	37 1/4 inches
Overall Length	
(folding stock open)	37 3/4 inches
Overall Length	
(folding stock closed)	27 1/2 inches
Weight	(approximate,
full stock)	6 1/2 pounds
Rear Sight	Peep, Adjustable
Front Sight	Blade
Action/Barrel	Blued
	Chrome-Moly or Stainless Steel
Manufacturer	Sturm, Ruger & Co.
Suggested List Price (Blue)	\$468.00
Suggested List Price (Blue Ranch)	\$504.50
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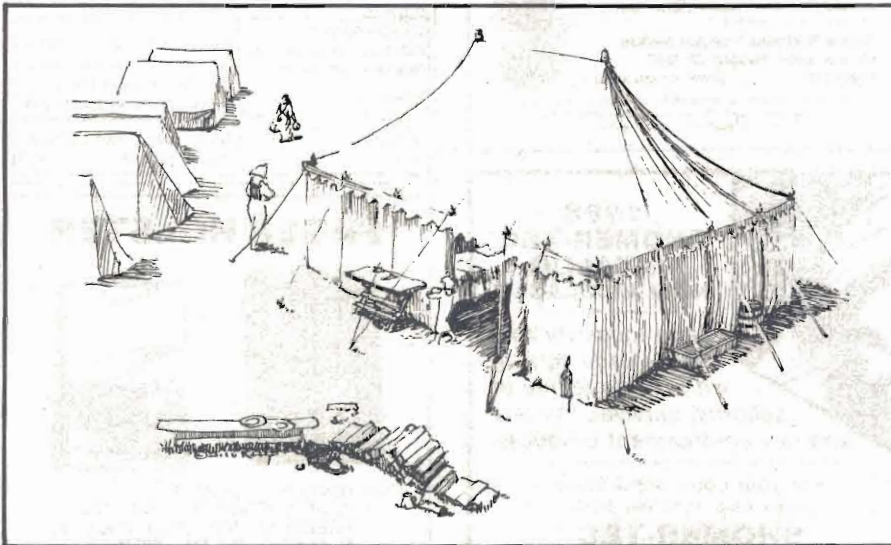
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Canvas Tents

(Continued from page 18)



The pyramid tent is similar to the tents used by cowboys during cattle drives. It uses one inside pole.



The Marquee tent dates back to Renaissance times. This fairly large tent can be divided with curtains to make separate living quarters.

wall tent ranks as one of the best tent designs around. It offers a very efficient use of material for the space provided and can withstand the buffeting of healthy rain storms. Wall tents are easy to transport (the canvas for a spacious 9'x12' weighs only 38 lbs.) and are quick to set up. The "eastern style" wall tents use a minimum of three poles: two uprights and a ridge pole on the inside of the tent. This is the oldest wall tent design and with its shorter and fewer poles, it is the easiest to transport.

The "western style" wall tent came into being as the frontier pushed west across the Rockies. It has an outside pole structure with an inside ridge pole. This style uses longer poles and

became popular in the mountains where poles were plentiful. When an encampment was pitched, the poles were cut from the area. When the encampment was over, the poles were left behind and new ones were cut at the next site. Even with horses, the seven 15 to 20 foot poles would be cumbersome to drag along the trail. Today the cutting of new poles is not recommended. Lodgepole pine tent poles are offered by tent manufacturers and can usually be transported by pickup or on the rack of a station wagon.

The wedge tent is one of history's most popular tents. It was used by the Continental Army and also during the Civil War. From about 1755 to roughly

1860 the wedge tent was used heavily by fur trappers and traders. A derivation of the wedge tent includes the French belled tent. Instead of a squared off end, the French rounded the end of the tent like a bell. This adds additional floor space without requiring longer poles.

Single pole tents were popular during the cattle drives of the cowboy era and were used well into the 20th century. They can be suspended from an external pole structure (usually two poles or a handy tree limb) or supported with one pole from the inside. The pyramid tent fits into this category and covers a great deal of floor space for the amount of canvas carried.

Marquee tents date back to the Renaissance period and are some of the largest canvas tents made. They offer plenty of headroom and would comfortably house one to two families. Many of the modern day traders at mountain man rendezvous use marquee tents to sell their wares. With half-walls, additional awnings, doors and privacy curtains, this can be a very versatile tent. Sizes range from 9'x12' to 18'x24'.

Although the nylon backpacker tent will probably remain first choice for those seeking to get away with just a few items strapped to their back, the canvas tent will continue to provide spacious, heavy duty protection from the elements. Canvas is tough, and if it was good enough for rowdy cowboys and intrepid frontiersmen, then it's good enough for me! ●

Tent Sources

Panther Primitives, P.O. Box 32, Normantown, WV 25267; (304) 462-7718. Besides a complete line of canvas tents and tipis, their 110 page catalog includes frontier clothing, Hudson's Bay Point blankets, tent and clothing accessories for the authentic look, and even cast iron cookware and oak wooden kegs for the proper primitive camp. Catalog \$2.

R.K. Lodges, Box 567, Hector, MN 55342; (612) 848-6363. One of the few outfits that offers a "western style" wall tent. A good selection of Revolutionary and Civil War tents. The owners are very involved with buckskinning and the National Muzzle Loading Rifle Association. Catalog \$1.

Spring Valley Lodges, 7706 Orion, Loves Park, IL 61111; (815) 633-2322. This catalog gives a good description of their construction techniques and contains photographs to illustrate the various tents and tipis available. Catalog \$2.

Tentsmiths, Box 496, North Conway, NH 03860; (603) 447-2344. With one of the best selections of canvas tents from the 18th and 19th centuries, *Tentsmiths* has been commissioned to provide tents for the movies and for national and state historic associations. The catalog features fine pen and ink drawings. Send \$2 for catalog.

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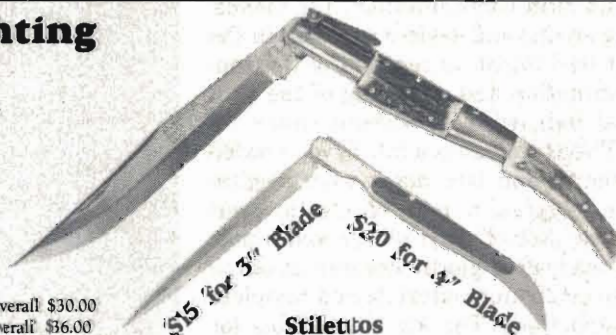
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(Continued from page 27)

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Bob Warner, Communications Director for the Foundation for Advancements in Science and Education, wrote in *New Leaf Press*, (July, 1988), that "no toxicity data is available for about 80 percent of 49,000 commercially used chemicals." He notes that *Occupational Medicine: State of the Art Reviews* considered the problem of workers with multiple chemical sensitivities. Here, Dr. Mark Cullen described how he and his colleagues realized that an identifiable group of individuals were "characterized by severe, recurrent, and toxicologically inexplicable symptomatic reactions to quite low levels of common airborne substances." Why some became ill while others seem unaffected is increasingly a subject of research. Just as some escape the burden of heart disease or cancer, others tolerate chemicals well.

The list of case histories, however, grows rapidly. Four hundred and sixty specialists in the U.S., members of the American Academy of Environmental Medicine, treat an expanding population affected with chemically induced illness and related complications. However, most victims are still without proper diagnosis or treatment. Many with this disorder that makes twentieth-century living a nightmare have no idea why they are sick.

The problem is no respecter of age. Doris Rapp, M.D., of Buffalo, New York, is internationally acclaimed for her work with children who have E.I. She documents numerous cases which respond to avoidance of chemical agents and offending foods. Yet, many physicians continue treating these children with Ritalin when another chemical can pose more problems.

Bruce and Barbara Small are environmental consultants in Canada who share Rapp's concerns, especially the menace that exists in schools. The Smalls, themselves victims of environmental pollution, conducted a major study of school pollution for the Toronto Board of Education in 1985. According to the *Toronto Star*, January 21, 1988, the results of studies were summarized succinctly by Greg Finlayson, chairman of the Ontario Interagency Working Group on Pollution in Education. Construction materials, cleaning solvents, art supplies, and the chemically loaded carpets that have become so popular are making children sick.

Hyperactivity is only one symptom. Headaches, rashes, pain, depression, stomach upsets, etc., plague youngsters as never before. Shouldn't we wonder about a connection between chemicals and exacerbated problems youth face today — violence, depression, suicide, drugs, etc.? Many experts think so.

Chemically Hypersensitive — Fred Nelson lives on a boat moored at an ocean beach which has been modified for his safety. Cleansing ocean breezes create a safer environment, allowing him some productivity. He organized the National Foundation for the Chemically Hypersensitive and works toward public understanding of environmental influences on human health. Illness from massive exposures or accidents, i.e., Love Canal or Chernobyl, is easily believed, but cumulative exposures to products we use daily in our homes, on our bodies, or at work escape ready recognition.

ENVIRONMENTAL ILLNESS IS AN IMMUNE SYSTEM BREAKDOWN

Nelson is compiling data from chemically ill patients for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and cites interesting statistics. For example, 95 percent of these patients react to numerous triggers like petroleum products and by-products, including gasoline, paints, solvents, polyester clothing; formaldehyde, which is in many building materials, synthetic fabrics, carpets; phenol, found in food cans, medications, disinfectants; pesticides, which contaminates foods in unknown quantities; detergents, fabric softeners, and household cleaning agents; after-shave, perfumes, hair care items, and other fragrance products. Potentially toxic substances are everywhere and too numerous to list.

Physical symptoms of environmentally induced illness, aside from malignancy, can mimic most other illnesses and often defy laboratory analysis unless the physician knows what to look for. Patients complain of severe headaches; chest pain/palpitation; gastrointestinal disorders; muscle, joint, and bone pain; edema; central nervous system reactions, i.e., poor concentra-

tion/memory, mood swings, depression, etc.

A common complaint in early stages of chemical illness is chronic flu-like symptoms. Patients experience tachycardia (rapid heartbeat) at frightening levels often after only a few minutes in an automobile.

Liver or kidney failure caused by formaldehyde products in homes are on record. The list of symptoms is lengthy, and most patients experience several.

When all this cannot be understood by traditional medical criteria, patients might be misdiagnosed as psychosomatically ill and referred to psychiatrists. Environmental physicians suspect that many patients in mental institutions are victims of severe chemical and food sensitivities.

The specialist in environmental medicine, (clinical ecologist) works compassionately with patients to identify what exists in an individual's lifestyle that may affect health. These outstanding practitioners refuse to compromise with anything less than truth, and their case histories alone prove that patients are helped when they facilitate necessary changes in their lives. Sadly, chemical victims often become destitute because of their illness. They can't afford a move, air or water filtration systems, or to switch from fossil fuels to electric heating and cooking. Yet, some gain minor improvement simply by changing diets and eliminating household chemicals and cosmetics from their homes.

John McMichael, former professor of immunology at Edinboro University in Pennsylvania, said that brine runoff in that geographical area has caused a significant increase in malignancies in fish and deer populations. McMichael is director of Milkhaus Laboratory near Albany, NY, and immunological consultant to Roy Kerry, M.D. of Immune Disorders, Inc. in Greenville, Pennsylvania. While McMichael researches treatment for these immune problems, Kerry's medical practice is rapidly growing due to the large number of new patients who travel from various parts of the eastern United States and Canada in order to find help.

McMichael stresses avoiding masking symptoms with drugs, instead stimulating immune cells gone awry into functioning properly again. Great strides are being made in this direction

in that patients are improving to better levels than drugs accomplish, and without side effects. Many who practice total avoidance of harmful chemicals and rotate diet to control food allergies are able to feel quite healthy within their limited lifestyle — something drug treatment cannot offer.

Simply put, Environmental Illness is a breakdown of the immune system, primarily chemically induced, that causes chronic illness and leads to heart and other organ failure, anaphylactic shock, and other life-threatening situations. It's not contagious, although in many cases viral infections, particularly Epstein-Barr, may help trigger the immune breakdown. For others, heavy use of antibiotics may be the culprit. In women, the birth control pill has been known to compromise the immune system. Steroids (anabolic and cortico) are immunosuppressants. These medications frequently encourage overgrowth of yeast in the system, resulting in chronic, systemic Candida Albicans (yeast) infections which also compromise the immune system. Combining any or all of the above with chronic exposure to chemicals frequently spells disaster.

The campaign to conserve energy which resulted in tight buildings created an increase of the syndrome in recent years. The use of synthetics coupled with inadequate ventilation, has simply made too many people sick in surroundings that were generally considered safe. Resulting inability to function normally in the workplace (and elsewhere) means that many require disability benefits and in February, 1988, a Social Security disability manual was adapted to define Environmental Illness.

The American Academy of Environmental Medicine lists a growing number of doctors who treat the syndrome. Theron Randolph, a Chicago physician, is considered a pioneer in this field. He made significant discoveries about food allergies in the 1940s, but by 1951 had determined through many studies that increased use of chemicals was a major source of chronic illness. Randolph wasn't referring to the obvious, such as killer smogs that annihilated hundreds in England during the 1940s. Rather, he had determined that subtle ingredients in twentieth century living caused harm. He and others in the field have clearly shown that much chemical illness is medically induced; i.e., treating symptoms with synthetic drugs, many containing petrochemical derivatives, can

make the patient worse.

Diagnosis and treatment of E.I. is time consuming. Since it requires avoidance of offending substances, it's often difficult for patients and their families to accept that modern living, with a plethora of time saving products, makes people sick.

The public is slowly developing a healthy respect for chemicals and acceptance of alternatives to indiscriminate use of man-made substances. But such education must be accelerated; consumer action must encourage manufacturers to make safer products; agriculture must return to more organic growing. We cannot continue to ingest chemicals, put them on our bodies, spray them on bugs, and otherwise abuse them. We strive for better health with exercise, but joggers alongside highways defeat their purpose by inhaling toxic gasses from passing vehicles.

Change takes time, but if we're to survive pollution of our resources and our bodies, we must rethink priorities. It is possible to defeat this threat, to avoid the "silent spring" for our earth and our health, if each of us will recognize the need to participate in cleaning up our world. The crisis is now. If we undertake a worldwide, massive effort to end pollution it would still take many years to heal the damage done by acid rain, the greenhouse effect, and the hole in the ozone layer. The summer of 1988 saw increased illness and death. It was only a sample of what we face if we don't act. But if we do get going, a cleaner, safer, healthier world is not beyond our reach. There *is* hope. ●

RESOURCES

American Academy of Environmental Medicine
P.O. Box 16106
Denver, CO 80216

Human Ecology Action League
388 E. Gunderson
Carol Stream, IL 60188

Practical Allergy Research Foundation
P.O. Box 60
Buffalo, NY 14223-0060

Ecological Illness Law Report
P.O. Box 6099
Wilmette, IL 60091

National Foundation for the Chemically Hypersensitive
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Wrightsville Beach, NC 28480

A list of resources for non-toxic materials for building/decorating, clothing, bedding, air filtration equipment, other non-toxic products is available from Southern Tier H.E.L.P.E.R. (Human Ecology League Promoting Education/Reform) P.O. Box 604, Jamestown, NY 14702-3604 for a self-addressed #10 envelope and \$1.00 postage and handling.

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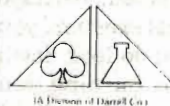
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PENICILLIN G POTASSIUM	25ml \$26.20	
POTASSIUM NITRATE (96% PURE)	25lb \$39.75	
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PROCAINE HCl	2gr \$ 8.50	10gr \$15.50
SODIUM CHLORIDE	1lb \$ 9.00	5lb \$16.80
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YOHIMBINE HCl		1gr \$15.50
ZINC DUST	1lb \$ 8.00	5lb \$23.00

Special packaging where required, extra charge, please inquire.

Spiders

(Continued from page 55)

excruciating encounters is the outhouse. The black widow has a penchant for nesting under the seat.

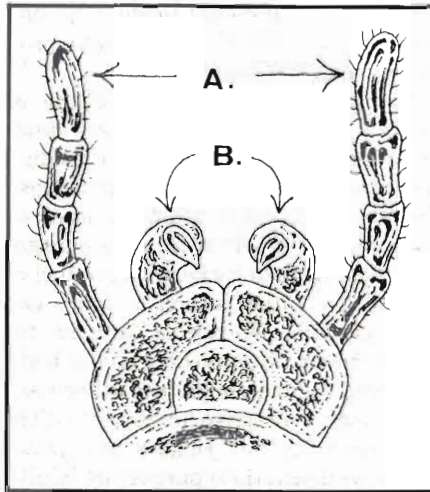
Most Poisonous — Although the Black Widow acquired its common name from the female's tendency to eat the male after mating (a trait common to many spiders) rather than from the potency of its poison, it is the most seriously poisonous spider in the United States and perhaps the world. Estimates place the strength of its venom at 15 times the strength of the Timber Rattlesnake's, Black Widow venom has seven protein and three nonprotein fractions. Of these, Protein Fraction B is the dangerous one for mammals, having 20 times the fatality potential of whole venom. In this species, the males and females are equally dangerous.

And the danger may be enhanced if you don't realize that you've been bitten. Their recurved, stabbing fangs are relatively small. A bite has a sharp initial pain that feels like a needle puncture. There may be a burning sensation. If you're distracted, perhaps because of heavy physical exertion, you may feel nothing. If you do look down to seek the source of the burning, you may see some redness and a slight swelling.

More serious symptoms can begin 15 minutes to hours after the bite. Some of the first signs are a general weakness with a mild paralysis of the muscles in the region of the bite. This can be followed by the onset of abdominal muscular rigidity and cramping in your arms and legs. Your skin may feel cool and clammy even as you sweat. Your breathing may become labored, and your speech could be affected. Nausea could lead to vomiting. At its worst, stupor or delirium may occur. Small children may suffer convulsions. General weakness, nervousness and muscle spasms may persist for months after the bite.

The confirmed mortality rate is just over 4 percent. Not high unless you are among that 4 percent.

Fortunately, first aid is relatively simple. Apply a cold compress, preferably an icebag, to the bite and take the victim to a doctor as quickly as possible. Remember in transit to keep the victim calm, avoiding any exertion, and do not elevate the bitten area. It



Stabbing-type fangs of female *Latrodectus mactans* (ventral view. A., pedipalp. B., fangs.

is important to avoid any activity that will increase the heart rate for the increased heart rate will speed the spread of the poison through the system. Also beware of any signs of shock and treat the victim for shock as needed.

The Black Widow is not the only species of *Latrodectus* to worry about in America. *Latrodectus hesperus*, the Western Black Widow, is virtually identical to *L. mactans* in all ways, including the potency of the venom. You may also run across the Brown Widow, *L. geometricus*, a gray spider with brown mottling but the same general configuration as *L. mactans*. Its venom is less virulent, but it can still be unpleasant. The same is true of *L. bishopi*, the Red-Legged Widow. In the far Southwest *L. texanus* lurks, a species who carries the bright markings of his immature state into adulthood. His too is a milder venom that can still cause considerable discomfort.

In short, stay away from all spiders with irregular webs and *Latrodectus*' characteristic high-humped, round, fat abdomen and long legs. Another tip-off is the hourglass marking on the underside of the abdomen. This may be red, yellow or both. Or, as in the Australian *L. hasseltii*, it may carry the mark on its back.

The Black Widow in all its variations has been known and feared world-wide. The Northern Mewuk Indians of California used to say, "Po'ko-moo, the small black spider with a red spot on his belly is poison. Sometimes he scratches people with his long fingers, and the scratch makes a bad sore."

They suggested leaving Po'ko-moo alone. Not bad advice even today.

Brown Spiders — The other infamous weaver of irregular webs doesn't have as many notches on his gun, but he may be far more dangerous. There are only seven deaths officially attributed to the *Loxosceles* genus, but they have not been recognized as a danger for as long as the Black Widow has. In the early 1960s a rash of reports from careful observers recorded the worst: the bite of *Loxosceles* could be fatal. It makes you wonder how many previous bites were written off to rusty nails or septic splinters.

Members of this genus are commonly known as Brown Spiders because of their coloring, which ranges from a yellowish shade to a deeper brown most pronounced on the legs and abdomen. These are medium-sized spiders, growing to a body length of about one-third of an inch. Like the Black Widow, they have small, recurving, stabbing fangs.

Another common name is the Fiddleback or Violin spider which is derived from the characteristic marking that extends backwards from the head down the cephalothorax. When the spider is facing you, it will look like a right-side-up violin. This marking is common to all spiders in the genus, but it is not always well defined or continuous. The part that forms the body of the violin, an elevated portion of the head around the eyes called the ocular tubercle, is not always colored dark enough to make this identifying feature stand out. Unfortunately, this genus does not have other significant outstanding features to aid in recognition. It does have extremely long legs, but so do many other spiders. One should exercise caution in identification.

While the female Black Widow may be five times larger than her mate with a body length of 1 1/4" to his 1/4", the males and females of the *Loxosceles* genus are virtually the same size, and the male Brown Spider will most likely not be eaten by his mate after the mating. Although different experts espouse different opinions as to the potency of male versus female venom, I find it best to consider male and female specimens equally dangerous.

There are several varieties of Brown Spiders common to the United States.

They thrive in human habitations although they may also be found in the wild under rocks and fallen logs. They particularly enjoy basements, garages, attics and closets. Their large, irregular webs may appear to be flattened to accommodate the space in the secretive niches they favor. They have been known to crawl into trunks, boxes and clothing, a habit that accounts for the introduction of at least one foreign species and the spread of native species outside their normal range. Moving vans and ships' holds have transported more than one to new ground.

These are long-lived spiders with lifespans of several years. They are also noted for the female's generous nature. Not only does she refrain from eating the male after courtship, she also will guard the eggs and the recently hatched young. Such habits promote more potentially dangerous situations and increase the opportunity for infestation. As these spiders live in our buildings safe from natural enemies, their numbers will increase more rapidly than they would if the female did not protect the young and did raise them outdoors amid their natural enemies.

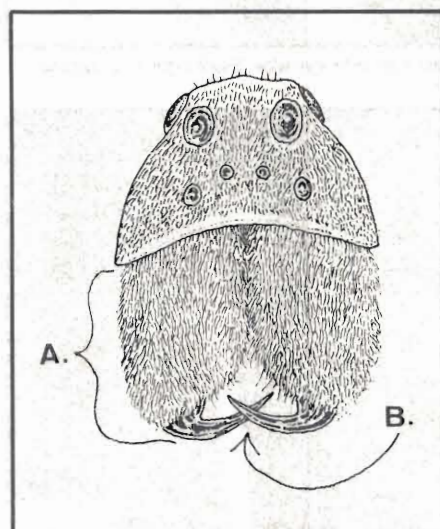
Brown Recluse — The Brown Recluse, *Loxosceles reclusa*, is the best known of this genus. Although it was originally believed that he was confined to the Midwest and Mid-South, his range has probably expanded. *L. unicolor* frequents the Southwest from California to Texas and has been involved in several recorded instances with serious consequences. Another, *L. laeta*, was introduced from South America. It is reputed to be even more highly venomous than the native species. A population was found in Sierra Madre, a suburb of Los Angeles, and another in Boston. *L. rufescens* lives in Eastern Europe and is probably overdue for an appearance in the U.S.

The bite of the Brown Recluse is not painful, and the onset of symptoms may be delayed for as long as eight hours. The first symptoms may be discoloration at the site of the wound and blistering. If the bite has been particularly potent, you may feel a general nausea and have a fever with a rash and severe abdominal cramps. The wound itself, however, may not be particularly painful. Typically, it will range in size from a dime to a half dollar. The skin in the area surrounding the wound will die, decompose and fall out, leaving a depression something like a bullet wound. The wound

will stay open, unhealed for months, and it may grow, spreading until surgery is required before healing can begin. In 1968 an Alabama man was bitten on the leg. He died five weeks later with an open wound 10 inches in diameter. The guilty spider was the Brown Recluse.

These two genera of spiders represent the greatest threats to our safety and well-being, but they are not the only spiders who have killed men. *Lycosa carolinensis*, the largest American Wolf Spider, and *Phidippus johnsoni*, a furry little Jumping Spider, are responsible for two fatalities, one an elderly woman, the other an infant. Both deaths were caused not by the potency of the venom but by the victims' allergic reactions to the bite.

Any venom is capable of causing such an allergic reaction. In the 1950s 124 Americans died from bee stings;



Pinching-type fangs of *Lycosa carolinensis* (Wolf Spider). A., chelicerae. B. fangs.

snakes killed 138. The onset of the symptoms of an allergic reaction can be swift, causing death within 15 to 30 minutes. People suffering from suspected hyperallergic reactions can often be desensitized. If this is not possible, it is best to know your condition and take the necessary precautions. If you have any doubts as to your status, discuss the matter with a specialist who can advise you on what precautions to take.

There is one other consideration in our discussion of spiders. The Tarantula is a large, hairy fellow familiar to all. Each year just prior to their September into October mating season swarms of the brown males will be seen travelling across their territories in the Southwest. At this time they are particularly prone to bite, even without provocation. While their

venom is no more harmful than a bee sting, their fangs are capable of producing appreciable puncture wounds. Many spiders besides Tarantulas have large fangs, and the puncture wound is one of the most susceptible to infection. Venom should not be considered a cleansing agent. If anything, knowing the habits of spiders should prompt you to make a serious effort to obtain professional medical care for such puncture wounds. You never know where those fangs have been.

The best way to avoid a spider's fangs is to stay away from spiders. Normally, they are easy to stay clear of, but when they infest your home, you must remove them.

The best way to clear storage areas, attics, closets and such of potentially harmful interlopers is to vacuum the area with an extension tube fitted with an attachment big enough to suck up a spider. Be careful when disposing of the bag or its contents, for any reviving spider is apt to be agitated by his experience. Pesticides are effective if you're not worried about the contamination of their chemical residues.

Never handle a dead spider. The mechanics of a spider's fang apparatus are such that it can deliver a bite from any angle without blocking the venom duct. Coupled with the fact that spider fangs are extremely sharp, the possibility of accidental envenomation is too great to justify the risk of handling an apparently dead spider.

If you think you might have a serious infestation, which may occur with relatives of the Brown Recluse, it would be wise to call a professional exterminator. No area is safe from the possibility of infiltration. Young spiderlings have a unique mode of transportation which opens the world to them: They spin a strand of silk, offer it to the air and use its natural buoyancy to lift them into wind currents. Ships hundred of miles at sea and planes more than 10,000 feet in the air have encountered these ballooning baby spiders. Newborn spiders are very tiny. They have no trouble insinuating themselves through cracks and fissures, screens in many kinds of entryways, drains and ventilation systems.

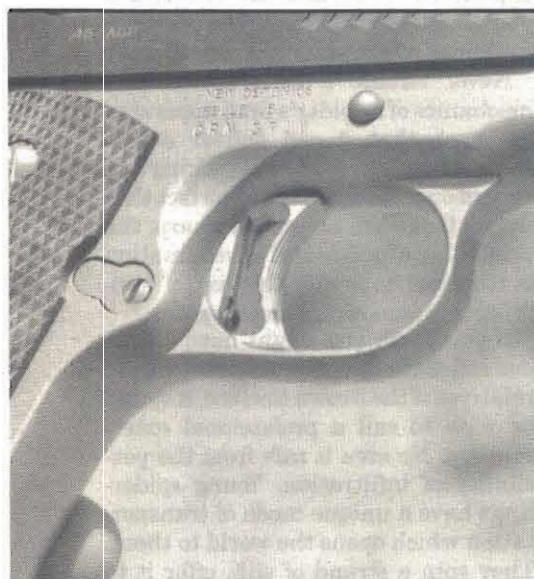
All spiders are poisonous, but take particular care when approaching any spider similar to *Latrodectus* or *Loxosceles*. It is common for minor variations in color and markings to occur in any species of spider. Small variations can seem like big differences on small animals. The spiders have earned the right to your respect. ●

Series II Servicemaster .45

(Continued from page 24)



Rear sight is an integral Bo-Mar adjustable square notch cast with the slide. Front sight is a ramped blade.



The match trigger has a factory pull of 4-5 pounds.



The Pachmayr-coated mainspring housing of the Service master.



The counterwound triple recoil spring and guide rod of the Series II Servicemaster.

ened "Commander" style hammer, checkered walnut grips from Herrett's Stocks, stainless steel magazine, beveled sides of the magazine well to make magazine insertion easier, a match "tuned" trigger with a pull of between 4 and 5 pounds, and optional black chrome sulfide coating of the slide for a handsome two-tone look. Both slide and stainless steel frame have a non-glare matte finish to them. The slide also has serrations, angled at the same degree as the grip, at both the rear and front. The front serrations are intended to accommodate a "palm check" method of opening the slide to see if there is a round chambered.

The Series II Servicemaster is a smooth shooting, reliable and very accurate pistol, probably the most accurate production .45 I've test fired. Its compact and highly efficient design translates into excellent reliability, with fast cycling of the action and quicker reacquisition of the target in rapid fire shooting.

Production models are expected to be available about the time you are reading this article. No suggested retail for the Servicemaster was established at this writing but this pistol will surely cost more than your average Government Model .45. For more information, ask your gun dealer or contact New Detonics directly. ●

New Detonics Series II Servicemaster: Tech Specs

Caliber	.45 ACP
Material	investment cast stainless steel
Lengths:	
Overall	7 7/8 inches
Barrel	4 1/2 inches
Height	5 1/2 at rear sight
Weight, empty	34 1/2 ounces
Sights	Bo-Mar adjustable square notch; rear, ramped blade front
Sight radius	6 1/2 inches
Finish	matte stainless steel; optional black chrome sulfide slide or nickel teflon finishes
Grips	checkered walnut
Magazine capacity	7
Safeties	grip safety; half cock; hammer position, thumb safety
Manufacturer	New Detonics Mfg. Corp., Dept. ASG, 24438 N. 7th Ave., Suite B, Phoenix, AZ 85027, (602) 582-GUNS.

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ASG 0902

United States. Jewish Survivalist? You are not alone. A national network of Jewish survivalists interested in future safety and security offers a secure environment, strong support for members, and self-defense and weapons classes and training weekends as well as survival conventions. Learn with and train with U.S. and Israeli combat veterans and other like-minded individuals who want to insure their own, their families' and the Jewish people's survival. All honest and serious mail answered. Strictly confidential.

ASG 0903

Cumberland, Maryland. Family oriented survival group looking to purchase survival weapons and ammo. Also looking for information on fallout shelters or underground housing. Please send list with asking price.

ASG 0904

Central Florida. Survivalist group seeking contacts, members and/or beneficial associations. Practice homestead, wilderness survival with like minded people for mutual protection.

ASG 0905

Eugene, Oregon. Single white female, a young and healthy 35, self-sufficient and adaptable, interested in networking with survivalists everywhere. Especially those with information on the coming earth changes and existing full-time live-in co-ops. Especially those in warm climates—U.S. or otherwise. Interested in group purchasing of property, group survival projects, buying/working my way into an existing group. Skills include truck driving, research, writing and editing, natural medicine and massage therapy, martial arts training and handgun familiarity, horses.

ASG 0906

Zanesville, Ohio. Seeking people interested in animal rights, return to nature, herbal medicine and the environment. Hope to have a newsletter and start a group for activities and friendship.

ASG 0907

Belgium, Europe. Belgian male, 21 years, wishes to establish contact with non-extremist Americans. Interested in all fields of survival. Maybe relocating in the future. All letters answered.

ASG 0908

Hudson, Wisconsin. Serious survivalist would like to make contact with survivalists of all types within a 100-120 mile radius of my area for the purpose of training, idea/information exchange or just to talk survival.

ASG 0909

Sacramento, California. I am a 24-year-old straight male looking for a survival group possibly to join, or help people with same intentions. I have military and forestry experience. All inquiries answered.

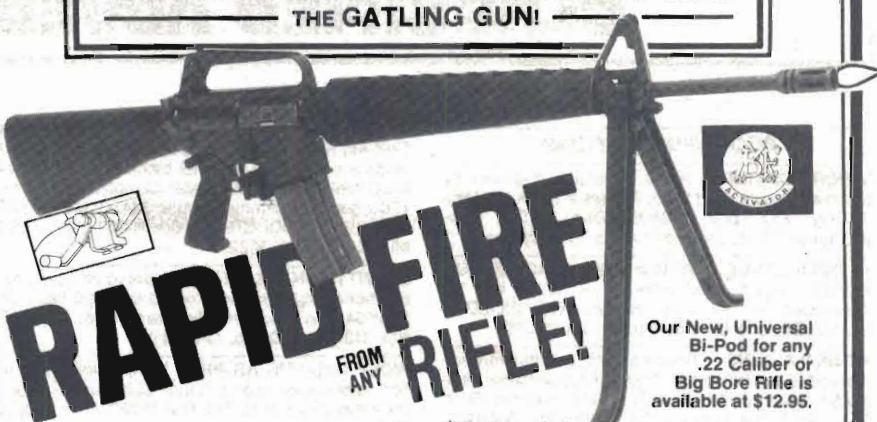
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MAIL CALL

Ban Assault Knives

You don't need guns. The government will take care of you. Look at China. With the banning of assault rifles the felons are lining up in large lines to turn in their assault rifles, only to take up assault knives. Therefore, we propose to ban all knives with blades longer than 3 inches. After all, why would a housewife need a killer butcher knife anyway? All knives should be registered with local police. Any registered knife longer than 3 inches must be welded to a chain no longer than 6 feet and secured to a firm part of a building. By God we are not going to have these drug criminals walking around with assault knives!

anonymous
Grants Pass, Oregon

We'll pass your letter along to our esteemed protectors in the California Legislature.

Jewish Gun Hate

"Jews don't appreciate what America has done for them." "The 11th commandment for Jews is to hate guns and everyone who owns one." "Damn Jew politicians are a bunch of communists." As a pro-freedom firearms distributor, a week rarely goes by that I don't encounter a growing rage and hatred against Jewish anti-gun politicians and Jews who support them. I suspect these attitudes have developed by watching years of anti-gun ownership voting records by Jewish legislators, as well as volumes of anti-gun propaganda by Jewish media representatives, celebrities, writers and producers. Over the years, my fellow Jews have tried their very best to eliminate gun ownership in America. What I call "Jewish Gun Hate" has reached a point where I fear a violent retaliation against Jews (particularly those who publicly denounce the Second Amendment to the Constitution) by hundreds of thousands of extremely angry gun owners. In my opinion, American Jews should re-think their political priorities. It is not in our best interest to contribute to causes that

will make Jews an unwelcome minority in Christian America. The gun ownership debate is such a cause. We Jews detest being told by outsiders what to believe in or how to think. Well, so do gun owners! I can assure you, a Jew telling a Christian gun owner he must be disarmed is an extremely volatile situation. I believe it's time for Jews to realize this fact of life. I plead with my fellow Jews to ask themselves, "How do Jews fare in countries where only the government owns guns?" The answer is simple — Jews and Gentiles alike do not have total freedom of expression; liberty is but only a dream. Today America is a land of freedom because of an armed citizenry, unlike communist nations which do not allow gun ownership and are able to suppress democracy at the whim of the government.

Aaron Zelman
national firearms distributor
co-author, *Consumer's Guide To Handguns*
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

We share your concern about the distressing gun hatred of Jews in the media and government, although they are definitely not alone in having such hatred. But you are a good example of the many pro-gun Jews — Jews who have learned from history — who stand with people of other ethnic backgrounds for firearms freedoms in this country. Without the support of our many Jewish writers, readers and advertisers, this magazine would not be what it is today. Freedom-loving people everywhere realize the need for arms for survival and as a deterrent to tyranny and oppression.

Drug War Rhetoric

I just read my first issue of your magazine, the June 1989 issue. Mr. Poe's article, "High Risk Hiking," recommending precautions for travelers who stumble upon illegal marijuana farms in our national forests and parks, was full of good advice. But was all the drug war rhetoric necessary? The growers are heroes of American

capitalism. Most of the social costs of drug abuse would be eliminated by legalization. Let the degenerates kill themselves with cheap drugs, so they'll leave the rest of us alone. Remember, it's the war on drugs which is making possible the war on our guns.

Jeffrey Quick
Cleveland, Ohio

We're not sure that the social costs of drug abuse would be eliminated by legalization, but we do agree that the anti-gun advocates in the media and government circles are trying to frighten the public into believing that drug dealers with guns are a reason to ban all firearms.

Barrel Cactus Water

In the July 1989 issue of *ASG* I read with interest the article, "Too Hot To Handle?" by G.J. Sagi. I noted the photograph of the barrel cactus and mention that it is a possible water source in the desert. These cacti do contain a high amount of liquid, but I have yet to see a survival-oriented article discuss the possible dangers of this as a water source. Some cacti have a significant amount of oxalic acid, which can cause severe nausea. Also, many succulents, cacti included, have a wide variety of complex chemicals. While most cacti are not considered poisonous, these can cause complications, such as diarrhea. Nausea and diarrhea are the arch enemies of a person in a heat situation with little available water. A person choosing barrel cacti as a water source should take into consideration all the factors of the predicament. It would be best to try to exploit other water sources first before attempting to use any plant source you are unexperienced with.

David Alloway
Lajitas, Texas

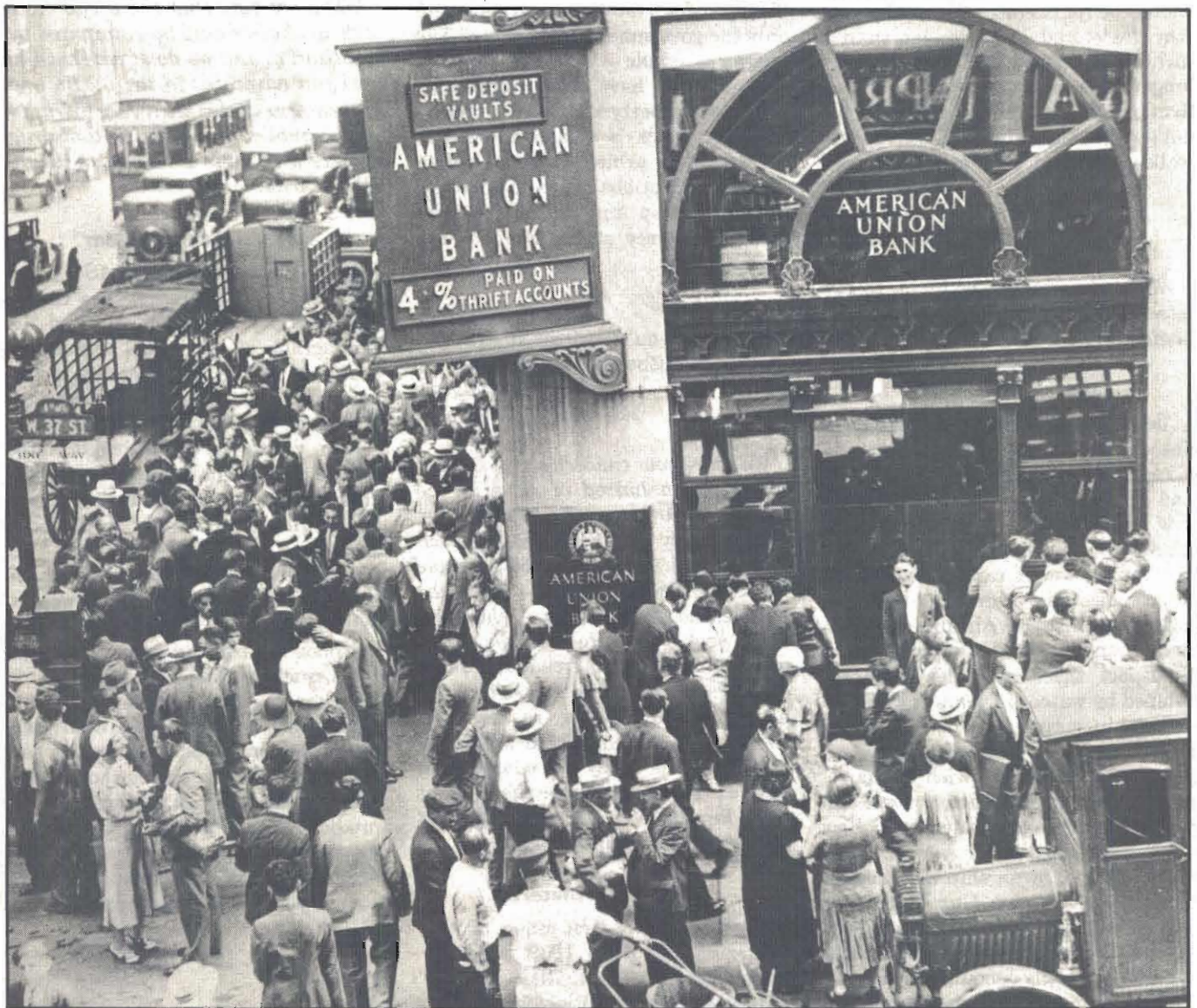
Thanks very much for the information. Perhaps you or someone else could write an article for us on how best to obtain water from cacti without suffering possible ill effects. ●

When? How Severe?:

Preparing For The Coming Recession

'A recession is likely in the next year or so' . .

Bank runs where panicked depositors converged en masse on their banks to withdraw their money, as shown here, were common in the depression era of the 1930s. Our banking system is fragile again today (Brown Brothers).



By Reynolds Griffith

SURVIVALISTS often seem to be preparing for nuclear war or the

collapse of society. However, it is wise to examine how well prepared we are for milder occurrences like an economic recession. We can always say that a recession is coming. The two ques-

tions that we must answer are, "When is it coming?" and "How severe will it be?"

We never know exactly when the recession is coming, but this is the long-

est peacetime upswing on record, which suggests a recession isn't far away. However, the composite of leading economic indicators (a group of measures like housing starts which tend to move ahead of the economy), has dropped for a month or two at a time over the past year and a half, but bounced back, sometimes strongly, in other months. Thus, it has not yet turned down. In the past it turned down as much as 10 months on average before a recession started. But that 10 month figure hides a lot of variation — the index turns down anywhere from much longer than 10 months before the recession to just before it starts.

Interest rates also help indicate when a recession is coming. As long as interest rates decline or stay at a low level a recession is not likely to start. Rates had risen in the Fall of 1987, but dropped sharply in October of that year as the Federal Reserve poured liquidity into the system following the market crash.

Rates continued to decline into early 1988, but since then have been moving up. Since the middle of 1988, short term rates have risen faster than long term rates, which typically happens before a recession, but through the Spring of 1989 had not yet exceeded the long term rates by a clear margin. Thus, interest rates were not yet telling us that a recession is imminent, but have risen enough to give a signal if the trend continues.

The stock market is another indicator. We can say with some confidence, "a recession doesn't occur without a substantial drop in the market." Every significant market drop does not signal a recession but it is a precondition which has been satisfied.

The consensus among economists seems to be that there will be a recession in late 1989 or early 1990. However, there is no agreement as to exactly when it will begin.

Thus, our answer to the question, "When is the recession coming?" is as usual. "We don't really know." But it is probably not too far in the future. It would be surprising if we went another year without the recession occurring.

Recession Severity — That leads to our second question, "How severe will the recession be?" Several indicators suggest that it could be more severe than in the past 20 or 30 years. We see, first, a number of weak segments in the economy. Agriculture on the whole has not been doing well in spite

of the prosperous general economy. There is a parallel in that, of course, to the 1920s. After showing some evidence of recovery, agriculture was hit by drought in 1988.

Regional weaknesses are also apparent. We are very conscious in the Southwest of the decline in the price of oil impacting the economy in this area. We've felt we were already in a recession the past few years. We can see something of the same thing in the resource areas of the country like Wyoming and Montana, for example, which have been very dependent on copper and other minerals.

Weakness is evident also in the finances of large corporations. We tend to think giants like General Motors, US Steel, etc., must be doing OK. But they haven't done that well considering how prosperous (measured by the broad measures) our economy has been.

We can see several signs of this. Over the past several years more bond ratings, the opinion of the rating agencies of the safety of bonds, have been downgraded than upgraded. In a period of prosperity we would expect the reverse. Some companies, even big companies, are already in real trouble in their finances. Even the Standard and Poor's Industrial Index, an index of large, well established companies, shows some weakness. We often use the S&P Index as a measure of stock prices, but Standard and Poor's also supplies earnings and dividend information on the index as if it were a stock. Over the past several years profitability of companies in the index has been surprisingly low, except in 1987, for a period of prosperity.

Looking at those aspects suggests that the apparent boom we've had has obscured some weaknesses. When the overall economy turns down, the existence of these weak areas may drag down the rest of the economy, making the recession worse than it otherwise would be.

We can also see fragility in our financial system. One indicator of this is the levels of debt. You probably know about troubles of countries like Brazil and Mexico from the enormous debt they've incurred. A lot of it is owed to our banks. When those countries can't pay the debt, and it doesn't look like they will be able to, it hurts our banking system.

U.S. Debt — Even inside the United States, we find high levels of debt. Corporations over the last several years have used more debt. Individuals have

used more debt than we financial advisers to individuals think wise. That, again, has implications. When the economy turns down, it will become difficult for these companies and people to pay their debt. More defaults on the debts are likely than in earlier recessions. That will make the recession worse, because when some companies and people have trouble paying their debts, then whoever was owed has trouble as well.

Many financial institutions are not in good shape. Even after this period of prosperity, many savings and loans are in trouble, not only in the Southwest, but nationwide. Two hundred banks failed last year, more than any year since the 1930s. If the pace through April continues, 1989 will see even more failures than 1988. Many banks and savings and loans are not in condition to weather a recession.

People worry, "Are we going to have a depression like the 1930s?" However, some conditions are different from the late 1920s and early 1930s, which suggests that while the recession of 1989 may be more severe than our recent experience, it may not be as severe as the 1930s.

Income maintenance programs like Social Security and unemployment benefits slow the drop in people's incomes in a recession, so they are able to maintain their spending better than in the 1930s.

In spite of weaknesses in banks and savings and loans like the late 1920s, federal agencies now guarantee up to \$100,000 of each account. Consequently, failures will not have as severe an impact as they did then. We also see evidence that the monetary authorities will not permit a major bank failure that would drastically affect the economy. A few years ago they arranged to pump several billion dollars into Continental Illinois Bank to keep it afloat pending a plan to save it. A similar plan to rescue First Republic Bank in Dallas was worked out last year.

The money supply in 1929, '30, and '31, declined, which adversely affected the economy. Economists debate whether the Federal Reserve had enough power to increase it or just didn't. It now has the willingness and ability to increase the money supply, which has caused much of our inflation for the last 30 years. When a recession begins, the Federal Reserve will hold the money supply steady or even increase it.

Finally, something that seems rather

Preparing For The Coming Recession

indirect, but had a significant effect in the 1930s was the tariff barriers imposed by Congress through the Smoot Hawley Tariff bill of 1930. It raised tariffs in the early 1930s. Other countries responded by raising their tariffs. The resulting damage to international trade helped turn what might have been the recession of the early 1930s into the great depression. The trade bill passed last year by Congress doesn't seem nearly as drastic as the Smoot Hawley bill, though some commentators have suggested that it may have a damaging effect over the next several years.

So my conclusion is that the recession that's coming probably will be rather severe, but perhaps not of the same pattern or magnitude as the 1930s.

What Should You Do? — The first advice is "don't worry." Survivalists are sometimes accused of worrying too much about the future anyway, but I think most of us recognize that conscious preparation cuts down on worry. So the best advice is to prepare for the recession as you do for other possibilities.

The second counsel is to watch what's going on in the economy. The Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis puts out useful publications for this. A monthly, *National Economic Trends*, includes a discussion of current conditions on the front page as well as a lot of charts. Their weekly publication, *U.S. Financial Data*, has a brief summary of what happened the previous week to such things as interest rates, leading economic indicators, etc. Inside are figures and charts on various monetary and interest rate series. It is a handy way to watch interest rates and see, for example, when short-term rates are creeping up toward long-term rates. A real attraction of these publications is their low cost. A subscription to the monthly is free, the weekly costs just \$18 per year. Write the Federal Reserve, P.O. Box 442, St. Louis, MO 63166.

What about stocks if you own any? We don't have space to cover them in detail, but a good policy when a recession is coming is to sell all but the very best stocks. (A detailed recommendation of which stocks to sell is available free by sending a stamped, addressed business size envelope to Individual Investors Institute, Box

13522 NT Station, Denton, TX 76203.)

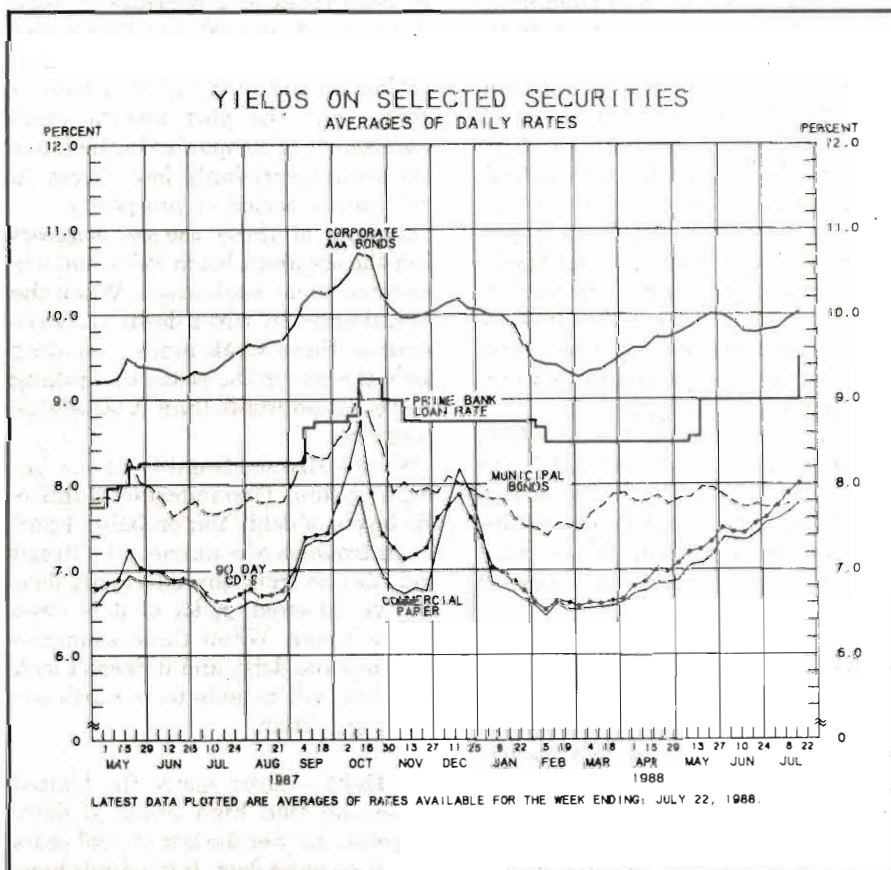
You should always have a liquid reserve fund, but it is especially important at this time to be sure it is adequate. A traditional rule of thumb is to have a reserve fund equal to six months income, but it more realistically attainable to say six months living expenses (including debt payments) since that is the part of income which would need replacing. The reserve fund can encompass a variety of assets, including a modest amount of cash kept at home, the minimum balance in your checking account, a money market fund or money market deposit account. A portion of your stored food and other usable items can be counted as part of your reserve fund.

With the widespread bank and savings & loan failures you may worry about keeping part of your reserve fund in deposit accounts. However, with not more than \$100,000 in any single bank or savings or loan you needn't. The FDIC generally arranges for another bank to take over the accounts of a failed bank with little or no inconvenience for smaller depositors. The FSLIC is not as smooth in its operation. Depositors in a failed savings and loan at times lose a few days

interest on their money, but not their principal. Alarmists point to the small reserves held by these agencies in comparison to the potential losses. This overlooks the ability of the U.S. Treasury to create money to back them up. Of course if many such institutions failed at the same time the economic problems resulting would be much greater.

Another bit of advice is stay out of debt. Survivalists might be tempted to ignore the dangers of debt, thinking that in case of a major collapse, whether from war or internal causes, it will no longer matter. However, when we are heading toward a recession, you should not be heavily in debt. There is greater danger that you will not be able to handle the required payments. It would be unfortunate for your long-term preparations to be sidetracked by financial problems in the near term.

A recession is likely in the next year or so. It would not be surprising if it is more severe than those of the recent past. However, preparing with the precautions outlined above will enable you to weather the recession with a minimum of worry, just as you are planning to get through more serious disruptions. ●



Sky Spies

Military satellites of the 'black' space program provide reconnaissance and surveillance for the strategic security of the U.S. . . .

By Michael Pietrantonio

BEHIND the guarded doors of room 4C956 in the Pentagon lies the headquarters of an intelligence agency so secret that even its name is classified. According to the sign outside the fourth floor suite of rooms the offices belong to the U.S. Air Force Office of Space Systems, OSS. In actuality the OSS is the cover organization for the U.S. intelligence agency with the largest budget of any intelligence organization in the U.S. government.

The name of this officially non-existent, 30-year-old intelligence agency is the National Reconnaissance Office, NRO. Its mission is to administer and coordinate the operations of the extensive network of spy satellites through which the U.S. gathers intelligence, verifies arms control agreements, and provides an early warning network against surprise nuclear attack.

At any given time there are between 50 and 60 U.S. military satellites orbiting the earth. Some of them are used to provide pinpoint navigational accuracy for U.S. land, sea, and air forces. Others provide instantaneous worldwide communications between commanders and units in the field. Still others provide accurate meteorological and geodetic information, a necessity for modern military planners.

The remaining military satellites comprise what has come to be called America's "black" space program. Their job is to provide the many types of reconnaissance and surveillance necessary to insure the strategic security of the United States. Their workings, missions, and capabilities are among the most highly guarded of U.S. military secrets.

During peacetime, satellites of the black space program are assigned the primary missions of early warning and intelligence collection. They also perform vital roles in monitoring com-

pliance with arms control agreements, crises management, and war planning. In wartime these missions change according to the tactical and strategic requirements of the situation. Target selection, attack assessment, and real-time tactical battlefield intelligence are examples of the type of missions to which surveillance and reconnaissance satellites might be assigned during hostilities.

Perhaps the single most important mission assigned to U.S. spy satellites is that of providing early warning of a nuclear attack. Intercontinental ballistic missiles, ICBMs, take just 25 to 30 minutes to reach their targets. Submarine launched ballistic missiles, SLBMs, take just 10. With warning times so short it is essential to rapidly detect and assess the extent of such an attack.

To carry out this mission the U.S. relies primarily on a satellite system known as the Code 647 Defense Support Program, DSP. At any given time there are three DSP satellites in orbit. They circle the earth at an altitude of approximately 22,000 miles. Since at this altitude their orbital speed matches the rate of the earth's rotation, they remain over a single fixed spot on the earth in what is called geo-synchronous orbit. Two of these satellites (known collectively as DSP West) are used to monitor SLBMs from both the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. One orbits directly over the Pacific while the other scans the Atlantic from a spot over South America. The most important of the DSP satellites is known as DSP East. It is in orbit over the Indian Ocean, from where it can survey both the Soviet and Chinese missile fields. Soviet missile bases stretch across the entire USSR in a relatively straight line that parallels the Trans-Siberian Railway. By keeping the DSP East satellite in an orbit

slightly above the equator the satellite is able to cover virtually the entire Soviet Union.

In actual operation the sensors onboard the DSP satellites do not detect the actual launch of a missile from a silo or submarine, rather they detect the "hot" rocket engine about 30 seconds after launch as the missile begins to leave the atmosphere and is framed against the "cold" background of space.

Satellites have become indispensable to the collection and analysis of both strategic and tactical intelligence. In the strategic sense satellites assure that the U.S. will never again suffer a Pearl Harbor-like attack. In the tactical sense satellites give local commanders the ability to monitor nearby enemy forces and to rapidly respond to threats or opportunities as they present themselves.

There are basically two types of intelligence gathering satellites. Photoreconnaissance satellites which return varying types of images of their assigned targets and signals intelligence, SIGINT, satellites, called "ferrets" by the intelligence community, which monitor all types of radio, radar, and other electronic transmissions.

Photoreconnaissance Satellites —

Photoreconnaissance satellites use a wide variety of imaging sensors to survey their targets. Extremely high precision optical systems are used to capture and record images with resolutions of 6 inches or less. Infrared scanners are used to record images at wavelengths not visible to the naked eye.

Infrared photographs reflect the temperatures of both the objects being photographed and their surroundings. Different temperatures show up in infrared photos as different colors. Even minute temperature differences are detectable by the infrared systems carried onboard photoreconnaissance sat-

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Sky Spies

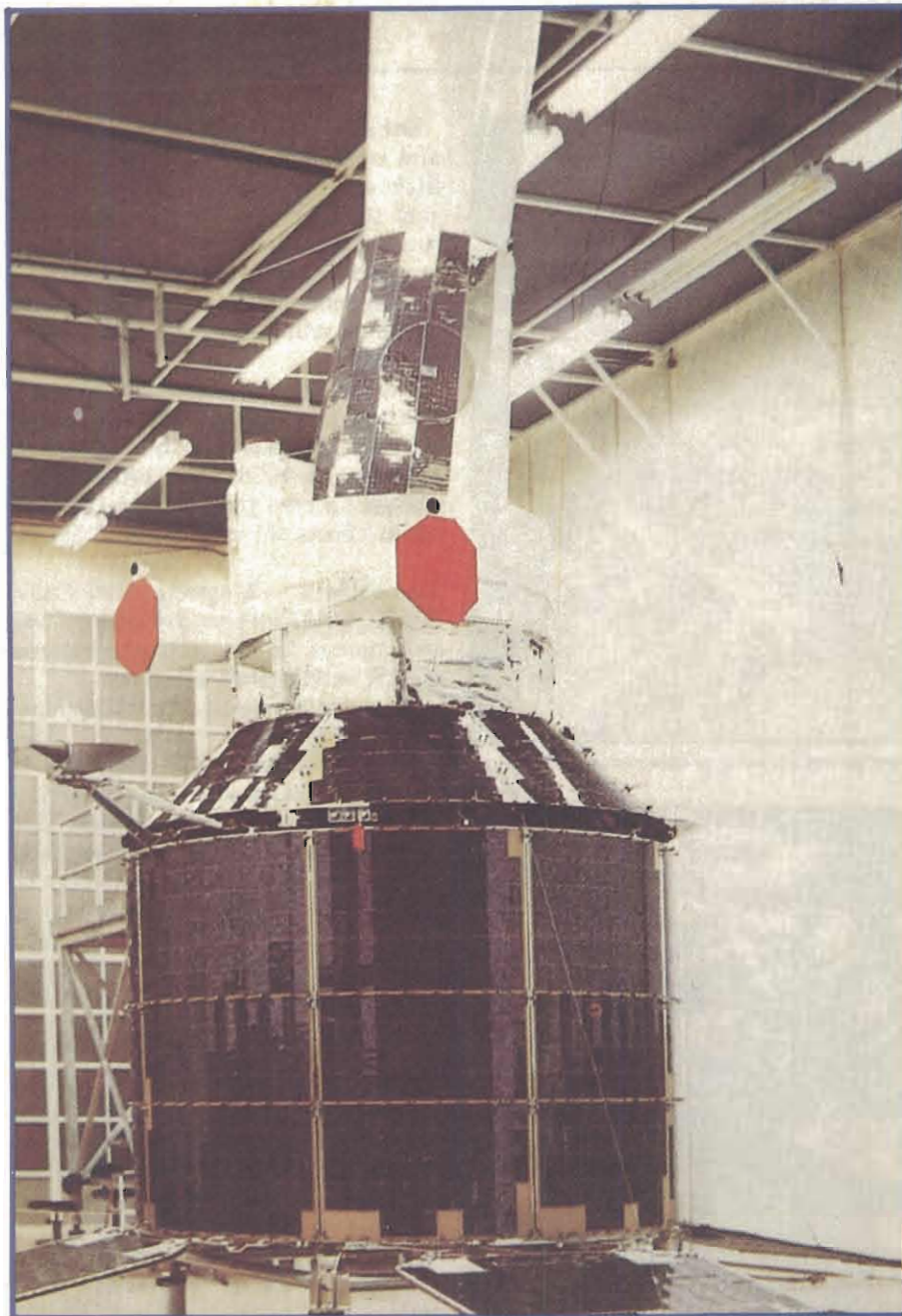
ellites.

Other imaging systems used aboard photoreconnaissance satellites range from multi-spectral scanning, which uses a series of photos taken in differing wavelengths of the spectrum, to radar imaging, which allows detailed photos to be taken through clouds, smoke, and even at night.

All photoreconnaissance satellites since 1962 have been designated by the NRO with the code name Keyhole, KH. Among the most successful satellites in the Keyhole program were the KH-9 (Big Bird) and KH-11 (Kennan) series.

The KH-9 series of photoreconnaissance satellites made their debut in the early 1970s. Their nickname within intelligence circles was, appropriately enough, Big Bird. Each Big Bird weighed some 12 tons and was 55 feet in length. They carried a Cassegrain optic system which utilized a primary mirror more than 6 feet in diameter. Unlike earlier Keyhole satellites the KH-9s were designed to perform both wide area surveillance and low-level reconnaissance missions, and were equipped with a second optical system designed specifically for reconnaissance work. This dual mission required the KH-9s to be able to maneuver in space. They were able to change both their orbital altitude as well as their orbital paths over the earth. This gave the Big Birds great flexibility in the type of missions that could be assigned to them.

The KH-9s returned their photos to earth using two separate systems. The first involved high-resolution images recorded on specially manufactured fine grain film which was loaded into canisters that were ejected from the Big Bird satellites. These canisters then reentered the earth's atmosphere over a predesignated landing zone in the Pacific Ocean. Specially equipped Air Force planes would home in on the canister as it descended by parachute and snare the canister in midair. Navy ships were stationed in the area in case the midair recovery of the canister failed. The second system was the first of its kind to be used aboard a U.S. spy satellite. It involved using a television camera to scan the recorded images and transmit them, in code, to either a relay satellite or directly to an NRO receiving station. Because of the technological limitations of the system these images were less detailed



The Defense Support Program satellites are stationed in geosynchronous orbit and provide the U.S. with warning of a nuclear attack (U.S. Air Force).

than the high-resolution photos, but were available within just a few hours of having been taken.

The KH-11 satellites began service in 1976 and are still in use today. They are the first intelligence satellites able to provide "real time" imagery of their targets. Through the use of sophisticated electronics, charge-coupled devices (CCDs), and ultra-high resolution optics, they can provide their controllers television-like images of events on the ground as they happen. In the visible light spectrum the KH-11s are said to be able to provide detail resolution down to 2 inches — this from average orbits of some 300 miles altitude.

KH-11s have provided vital intelligence during many of the major crises of the 1980s. It was KH-11 imagery which helped pinpoint the location of American diplomatic personnel being held hostage in the U.S. embassy compound in Tehran in 1980. Planning for the U.S. attack on Libya in 1986 relied extensively on KH-11 reconnaissance imaging. The same KH-11 was also used after the attack to assess the damage done by the U.S. bombing. KH-11s also provided U.S. intelligence analysts with their first views of the damaged Chernobyl nuclear plant.

Signals Intelligence Satellites — As mentioned earlier, the other category

of spy satellites operated by the NRO are the signals intelligence satellites, the "ferrets." These satellites have been called "vacuum cleaners in space" because they are able to pull in virtually any type of radio frequency or electromagnetic transmission.

Sigint is actually a somewhat broad category which includes within it communications intelligence, comint, radar intelligence, radint, and telemetry intelligence, telint. Sigint satellites are designed as either general coverage satellites, able to monitor all three categories of sigint, or they can be tailored to specific surveillance missions, monitoring only a single type of sigint transmission.

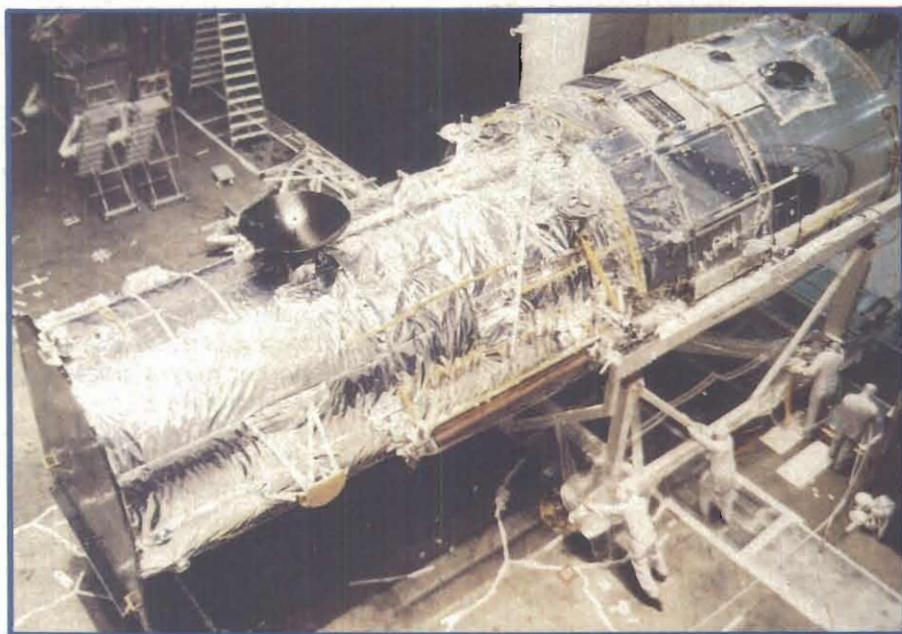
Historically the U.S. has deployed two types of sigint satellites. The first, a small beach-ball-like satellite weighing about 125 pounds was carried to orbit aboard the much larger Big Bird photoreconnaissance satellites. Once the Big Bird was in its proper orbit, the small ferret satellite would use its own rocket engine to achieve a nearly circular orbit approximately 300 miles high. The missions of these small ferrets were primarily radint. They would survey and record any radar transmissions in their target areas and, when over an NRO receiving station, send back the recorded information in a high-speed burst transmission. This information would then be analyzed by computers which were programmed to detect any new radar sites or changes in already discovered ones.

The second type of U.S. sigint satellite is a much larger craft designed, like its early warning counterparts, for geo-synchronous orbit. The first series of these large sigint satellites was code named Rhyolite and became operational in the early 1970s. Throughout the 1970s and early 1980s the initial Rhyolite designs were upgraded and their code names changed first to Aquacade and then to Argus. (The Argus designation is said to stem from the first two letters, AR, supposedly standing for Advanced Rhyolite). According to Dr. Desmond Ball, an expert on space espionage, the Rhyolite program was, "perhaps the most successful development in technical intelligence operations since the 'ULTRA' operation of the Second World War."

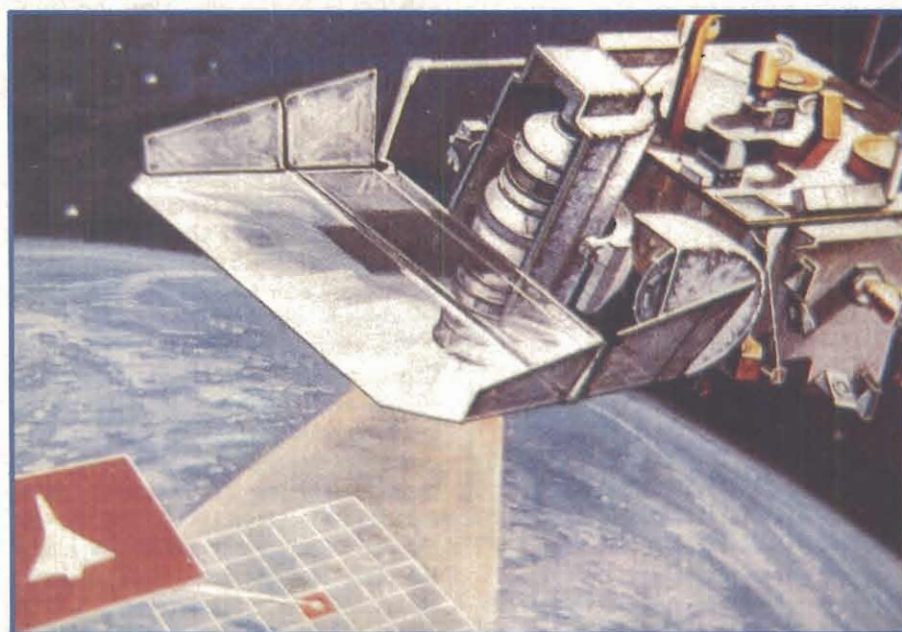
Though designed primarily for telint missions, the Rhyolites also carried electronics and sensors which enabled them to operate very effectively as general coverage sigint satellites.

Throughout the 1970s and early 1980s the U.S. kept at least two oper-

Sky Spies



The Hubble Space Telescope is very similar to the current generation KH-12 photoreconnaissance satellite (Lockheed).



The Teal Ruby satellite will be able to detect, track and classify individual aircraft engines (U.S. Air Force).

ational Rhyolites in orbit at any given time, one above the Horn of Africa, and the other over the Indian Ocean. From these locations the Rhyolites were able to monitor telemetry from both Soviet and Chinese missile tests. Telint provides information regarding a missile's performance characteristics — range, accuracy, payload capacity, etc. This information is vital in determining compliance with arms control treaties, and in assessing the strategic threat posed by particular systems.

As valuable as the Rhyolites were,

they proved vulnerable to the same weakness as the KH-11s. A disgruntled CIA employee and his partner, in what has come to be called the case of the Falcon and Snowman, compromised the Rhyolite program to Soviet intelligence in the late 1970s. The Soviets immediately began encrypting much of their missile telemetry, in clear violation of the provisions of a number of arms control treaties. This action by the Soviets later became a major obstacle to the ratification of the SALT 2 treaty.

Other than encrypting some missile and comint transmissions there was little else the Soviets could do to prevent the Rhyolite satellites from continuing to gather sigint. The Rhyolite program continued producing vital intelligence well into the 1980s, and may even still be available in a backup capacity.

The immediate successor to Rhyolite was code named Chalet, later changed to Vortex after a leak to the press. First launched in 1978, the Chalet/Vortex system became the backbone of U.S. sigint efforts through the mid 1980s.

The Future — Magnum, Teal Ruby, KH-12, HALO. These are some of the code names for the next generations of U.S. intelligence satellites.

Magnum is a sigint satellite and has already begun replacing the Chalet/Vortex satellites. Magnum is the first sigint satellite that is carried to orbit aboard the space shuttle. The first Magnum satellite was launched aboard the space shuttle Discovery in January 1985. The 1986 Challenger disaster has put the Magnum deployment timetable far behind schedule.

Like Magnum, the next generation of photoreconnaissance satellites, the KH-12s, require the space shuttle to loft them to orbit. This program is also behind schedule due to the Challenger accident. Magnum is very similar in design to the Hubble Space Telescope, HST, and like the HST is designed to be repaired and refueled in orbit.

The Teal Ruby satellite will use infrared sensors in conjunction with highly advanced charge-coupled devices to detect and track individual aircraft from orbit, in real time. Computers onboard Teal Ruby will be able to identify differing types of aircraft by their distinct infrared signatures.

The HALO project, High Altitude Large Optics, is intended to extend the concept behind Teal Ruby to the point that cruise missiles as well as aircraft can be detected, tracked, and targeted from orbit.

The intelligence needs of a country are dictated by the threats faced by that country. As we approach the beginning of the 21st century, the need for accurate and timely intelligence will continue to grow. This need can only be met by the continued development of our space based surveillance capability. ●

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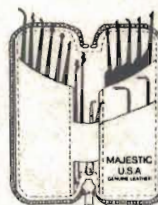
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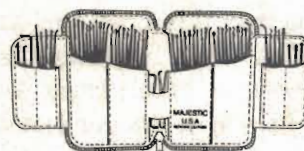
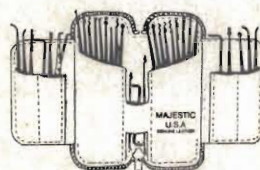


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